



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 16th May 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 Valerie preaching here this morning and for Emma at the Lantern, 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. 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.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.

Notices

Christian Aid week concludes this weekend. Christian Aid now focuses on direct donations, and you can see details of this on their website christianaid.org.uk. You can also donate through the envelopes which will be in the pews today – just pop your donation into the red envelope and leave that in the collection bowl at the end of the service, and I will make sure it gets to the right place. *Robin*

Around the Trolley

Foodbank Latest Wishlist. Can you please help us this week, with any of the following? We need donations now more than ever.

- *Rice pudding*
- *Ketchup*
- *Long life sponge puddings*
- *Powdered milk*
- *UHT milk (Full Fat/ Semi Skimmed please)*
- *Bars of soap*
- *Long life fruit juice*
- *Rice (smaller packets please)*
- *Sugar (500g packs please)*
- *Treats for children (chocolates, sweets, crisps etc)*



Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, (Behind West Ewell Primary School next to Ruxley Church), Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG. Drop off times are Monday to Friday 9:00am–2:00pm.

More news from the Bakers. Our lovely granddaughter Abigail celebrated her 18th birthday on Wednesday, 12th May 2021 and, as she said, is now an adult! Ernie and I cannot believe that it was eighteen years ago we held a little bundle of love that has now grown into this elegant young woman.

She also managed to pass her Driving Theory Test on her birthday! I don't think that it will be long before she is giving her Nanna and Pop a lift to the shops!

She also asked us to thank everyone at SMC for the lovely Card and Chocolates that she received from Jeananne.

Happy birthday Abigail!

Marion and Ernie



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 16 May, 10:30am

Led by Valerie Ashcroft

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/av0LH27tPLw 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

You who are passing through hard times: come!
You who need strength to support those who are suffering: come!
You who are full of happiness: come!
Come; let us unite in worship
of the one who offers us protection, comfort and joy.

Prayer of Approach

Gracious God,
set apart as you people yet together in you world,
We worship you as one.

Emboldened by your power,
protected by your promises and filled with your peace,
We worship you as one.

Upheld by your word,
inspired by your truth and named as your friends,
We worship you as one.

Keep us safe in the world.
Keep us praying for the world.
Keep us serving the world.
As one, in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Prayer of Adoration

God of yesterday, tomorrow and today,
we are children of the world you love and care for.
We praise you, heavenly Father, for calling us into relationship with you.
We praise you, Lord Jesus, for the power of your name
and the protection of your prayers.
We praise you, Holy Spirit, for your guidance and gifts
that enable us to draw others to you.
For you are faithful in times of uncertainty,
strong when we are weak,
the energy of all our doing and the peace of all our resting.

Amen.

Prayer of Praise & Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus,
as your disciples in the world today,
we thank you that your word of truth,
your prayer of power and your heart of love,
continue to protect, inspire and unite us
as we live out our faith,
build up our relationships,
and hold the world before you in prayer.

Amen.

A Prayer of Confession

Forgive us, gracious God, when we have turned away from your word
and immersed ourselves in the distractions of the world.

Forgive us, when we have sought to belong to the world
and compromised your truth to fit in.

Forgive us, when we have bickered amongst ourselves
and not shown the world that we are one.

Forgive us, when we have distanced ourselves
from those you have called us to serve.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God,
we thank you for the enduring prayer of Jesus for his disciples
which reaches and reassures us today as we walk in their footsteps,
reminding us that we are not alone
but protected, empowered, forgiven,
and surrounded by your grace every step of the way.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 28

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise;
praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of life and Lord of all,
sharer of our flesh and frailness,
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,
vastly different though we are;
creed and colour, class and gender
neither limit nor debar.
Join the hand of friend and stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table
rooted firm in time and space,
where the Church in earth and heaven
finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body;
share the love of which we sing;
share the feast for saints and sinners
hosted by our Lord and King.

John L. Bell (1949–) and Graham Maule (1958–2019)
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Readings: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

(NIV)

In our first reading from Acts of the Apostles following Jesus' ascension, the disciples are conscious that their number is now down by one following Judas' betrayal. They need to make up their number to 12 again. It apparently appears it must have had a symbolic function and it is thought that they represented the leaders of the New Tribes of Israel. There are two candidates: Barsabbas and Matthias.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served

as guide for those who arrested Jesus. He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.'

'Therefore, it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.' So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs. Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven disciples.

John 17:6-19

(NIV)

In our second reading from John 17, we hear that Jesus is praying for his disciples that they may be one as he is one with the Father. He asks that they may be protected from the evil one and sanctified in the truth.

Jesus prays for his disciples.

'I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Reflection

Prayers of Intercession.

Once again, the tensions between Israel and Palestine have reached the news cycle. We pray for the peacemakers in that area. Hold them from despair, give them the energy and vision for a better future that will keep them going during these difficult times. Help the local politicians and those in the international community who are trying to mediate and resolve this crisis. Equip them with the skills they need, give them the words that will speak into this situation and help those who need to hear listen to their words and cease their fire.

Lord, in a dark hour,

let your light shine.

As we roll out the vaccine in this country and celebrate a return to something that feels more normal, we are aware that this is not the experience of many people around the world. The scenes and stories from India and Nepal are deeply upsetting. We pray for help to arrive, for oxygen, doctors and for relief for those suffering. As things improve for us may we not forget to pray for people around this world who still face many dark days battling coronavirus.

Lord in amongst the pain and suffering,

let your light shine.

In the aftermath of the local, mayoral and crime commissioner elections we pray for everyone who has either lost or gained a job. Give people who are leaving their posts a sense of closure. Help them as they move on to something new. May they take the experience they gained and find ways to use it to empower and help others. For those who find themselves with a new job, give them the grace and humility needed to get to know new colleagues and work out what is required of them, and as our towns and cities emerge from coronavirus give us all patience with each other as we re-establish how to work and live with one another.

Lord, in a world of losses and gains,

let your light shine.

The blossoms on the trees and parks filled with plants and flowers at this time of the year remind us of the wonders of the natural world. But we are well aware of the difficulties facing our planet. The issues around climate change can feel overwhelming but we pray that the church has a voice in the debate and that we face up to our personal responsibilities.

Lord, in a world challenged by the climate crisis,

let your light shine.

In uncertain times we thank you Lord for the relationships and friendships that have carried us through for those who have made us laugh, for those who have listened, for those who have stood by us. Thank you for the love, care and attention of others. Help us to learn to pray as Jesus did. As we move through this week and encounter our friends help us to pray for their needs and that they would know your peace in their lives.

Lord, in all our lives and friendships,
let your light shine.

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 59

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;
set us free by the truth you now bring us-
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by your blood I may enter your brightness:
search me, try me, consume all my darkness-
shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory:
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story-
shine on me, shine on me.

A sending out prayer

As we leave this place, Lord,
may our prayers be just beginning.
May our worship, our time here,
what we have learned and what we have discovered,
lead us into action and lives full of worship
every hour of every day.
We ask in the name of Jesus,
whose whole life was an offering of worship to you.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God the Father, Jesus the Son
and the light of the Holy Spirit be with us now and
remain with us always.

Amen.

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