



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 23rd May 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 this morning and for Emma at Ruxley, 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.

"Lord, we pray for those who need ongoing medical treatment who are forced to wait at this time. God, please watch over their health and help them to stay positive and patient. We pray that we overcome this global crisis and that after this pandemic, we build a more just and humane world. Amen." Marlene Cruz who leads a community health team in El Salvador

Notices

Christian Aid. The total collected in our Church Services during Christian Aid week was £670 (£800 including the claimable Gift Aid). Jim tells me this is not far short of the last collection he coordinated in 2019, so well done to all in our congregation who contributed. *Robin*

We are having Teatime Worship on Thursday 27th May at 4pm on Zoom only, this is a follow on from Maundy Thursday 'Love Feast' which was enjoyed by all those who took part. Zoom will be on the usual Sunday connection, opening at 3:45pm for chat, and with the service itself starting at 4:00pm. Remember to have your tea, water, coffee and biscuits, cake or bread ready for 'sharing'.

A 'Love Feast' or 'Agape' is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry. On Maundy Thursday our worship was based on the Holy Communion service in the Methodist Worship Book and Love Feast guidelines on the Methodist Church website. During the service people exchanged views, prayers were said, and we 'shared' food and drink; despite it being Maundy Thursday we all left the service feeling uplifted. *Catherine*

Dates for the future. The following dates have been agreed by the Leadership Team – full details will be made known nearer each 'event'.

Monday 7th June 2021 - Church Council. Using Zoom; reports for this meeting should be with Marion by tomorrow, 24th May. An agenda and the Zoom link will then follow in due course.

Sunday 20th June 2021 - Annual Church Meeting. This will follow on from the morning Service – sadly, we cannot have a 'served' coffee interval between the Service and the meeting this year, but you are very welcome to bring your own drink or a small snack if you wish. Social distancing will still be in place in the Church, and those on Zoom will be able to take part in the meeting. Please send your written reports to Marion in good time so that the meeting can consider a comprehensive summary of Church activities during the past 15 months or so.

Sunday 4th July 2021 - Memorial Service. Combined with our monthly Communion Service (taking Communion is optional), this annual Service remembers those who have passed and whose names have been added to our Memorial Book by Church member or others. It may have been a recent passing, or perhaps a significant anniversary. More details are on our [website](#) and will be in the NewsSheet nearer the date.

Sunday 5th September 2021 - Covenant Service. Having had to miss our Covenant Service in January this year, we have arranged it to fit in with the start of the Methodist year (as do a number of other Churches) and hold it at the start of the Church year in 2021.

Around the Trolley

Kathryn's Mercy Home. We have received a two-page report from the Rev William Allberry about the two homes we sponsor in India, and I have pinned it to the notice board in the Church Vestibule for those who come to Church on Sundays. There will be an extract of the full report in the next Link, until then here is a short summary.

"This is to kindly inform that the Covid-19 virus spread very speedily and much powerful. Today one of my friend pastor affected by the Covid-19 and died. and also some more pastors are died in the last weeks. please pray for this dangerous situations."

So please continue to pray for Jeyapaul and his family, and for all involved in the project.

With best wishes, *William Allberry*

Dedication of Garden of Reflection. This special Service at Ruxley (3:00pm on Sunday 23rd May) will be available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/mcBl4Oz2D_k should you wish to watch. *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 23 May, 10:30am

led by Richard Graham

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/EqJM3_J_S3g 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 104: 24, 27-35

(NRSV)

O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are filled with good things.
When you hide your face,
they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit,
they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains
and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God
while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Approach

(Roots)

Spirit of compassion, we bring you our hearts.
Spirit of discernment, we bring you our choices.
Spirit of wisdom, we bring you our minds.
Spirit of boldness, we bring you our words.

Spirit of fulfilment, we bring you our longings.
Spirit of abundance, we bring you our resources.
Spirit of creation, we bring you our lives.

Lord,
help us to look out and listen for your Holy Spirit.
May we welcome you with open hearts and minds.
Call us, inspire us, surprise us and challenge us.
Give us confidence and calm assurance.
Lead us to your power and love.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 317

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed:

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

Lord, you are so great
that the whole of the universe cannot contain your glory,
and yet you live in the lives of those who put their trust in Jesus.
Lord, you deserve the praises of everyone who has ever lived,
everyone who is living and everyone still to be born,
and yet you welcome our worship.
Your glory cannot be limited to one time and place,
but by the Holy Spirit you help us to sing your praise
and to share your love.

We thank you for Jesus,
who promised that the Holy Spirit would come to empower our lives
and to change us completely.

We thank you that the Holy Spirit is your free gift
to all who put their trust in Jesus.

We thank you that the Holy Spirit fills us with joy
and with the strength to praise and to serve you.

We thank you for the Holy Spirit,
who helps us to love those we find it hard even to like
and to help those who will never say thank you.

We praise you that the Holy Spirit makes Jesus real for us
and brings us God's word in the Bible.

We thank you for the way in which the Holy Spirit fills us
with new hope, great joy and real life.

Forgive us when we still do not trust you in the way we should
and that we are afraid to trust you with the whole of our lives.
We ask your forgiveness for the way we hurt you and each other,
and the way we hurt ourselves.
We ask our prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

(Roots)

Gracious God, ignite our prayers
with the life-giving fire of Pentecost,
that we may not fear our inadequacy,
our hesitancy or our doubt,
but bring before you all that we are,
all that we have been, and all that we can be.

May we know that we can never aim high enough,
and never conceive anything complete enough,
to prepare us for all you would bless us with –
individually, as communities and as nations.

Help us to gather together and wait for you afresh,
trusting your love, mercy and forgiveness.

Amen.

Readings: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

(NIV)

The valley of dry bones

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'

I said, 'Sovereign LORD, you alone know.'

Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."' "

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live."' So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army.

Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off." Therefore prophecy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD."' "

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 372

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it
with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it,
thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes,
in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become
mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcoming
weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass
the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit
makes his dwelling.

Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)

translated by Richard Frederick Littledale (1833–1890)

Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

(GNB, adpt.)

The Coming of the Holy Spirit & Peter's Message

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They

were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

There were Jews staying in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because each one of them heard the believers speaking in his or her own language. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, "These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? We are from all over — yet all of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!" Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, "What does this mean?"

But others made fun of the believers, saying, "These people are drunk!"

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: "Fellow-Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only nine o'clock in the morning. Instead, this is what the prophet Joel spoke about:

'This is what I will do in the last days, God says:

I will pour out my Spirit on everyone.

Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message;

your young men will see visions,

and your old men will have dreams.

Yes, even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will proclaim my message.

I will perform miracles in the sky above

and wonders on the earth below.

There will be blood, fire, and thick smoke;

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will turn red as blood,

before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes.

And then, whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.'

Message

Hymn:

(Songs of Fellowship 3080)

There's nothing worth more,
that will ever come close,
no thing can compare,
You're our living hope.
Your presence, Lord.

I've tasted and seen,
of the sweetest of loves,
where my heart becomes free,
and my shame is undone,
in Your presence, Lord.

*Holy Spirit, You are welcome here,
come flood this place
and fill the atmosphere.
Your glory, God,
is what our hearts long for,
to be overcome
by Your presence, Lord,
Your presence, Lord.*

Let us become
more aware of Your presence;
Let us experience
the glory of Your goodness.

Bryan & Katie Torwalt
© 2011 Capitol CMG Genesis, Jesus Culture Music
Reproduced under CCLI licence 19650

Prayers of Intercession

(500)

We pray for those who live each day as if there is no God
and for those who exist when they could be living;
for those who see the world but not its Creator
and for those who are filled with thankfulness for life,
but have no Lord to whom they can offer it;
for those who spend their days with their minds on the things of this world
and have given no thought to the life yet to come.

May the Holy Spirit open their eyes
and unlock their hearts.
Come, Holy Spirit, **send us your power.**

We pray for those who acknowledge God's presence,
who know all about him,
but for whom he is a stranger;
for those for whom God is just a word
and for those who are genuinely seeking and longing to be found;
for those who have met Christ
but whose faith is weak
and for those who are fearful of what trusting him might mean.

May the Holy Spirit
bring faith, hope and understanding.
Come, Holy Spirit, **send us your power.**

We pray for those who have opened their hearts to Christ
and rejoice in the new life and peace he has brought;
for those who have experienced his work as their Saviour
but are learning what it means to call him Lord;
for those who have heard of the Spirit
and his life-transforming power,
but feel that his coming is not for them
but for others more worthy.

May the Holy Spirit
break through all the barriers we erect against him.
Come, Holy Spirit, **send us your power.**

We pray for those who see each day as a walk with Christ,
but are content to stay where they are
and not journey on in faith in him;
for those who have simply stopped growing
and those who are afraid of what God might require of them
if they dare to open their lives more fully to him;
for those who resist the coming of the Spirit.

May the Holy Spirit
set us free and give us courage.
Come, Holy Spirit, **send us your power.**

We pray for those who feel rejected by God and their neighbour
and for those who find their lives empty
except for darkness and despair;
for those who are full of dissatisfaction
and have no delight in the love or friendship of others;
for those who feel lost, alone and defeated by life
and for those whose lives are in turmoil.

May the Holy Spirit
bring them his peace and hope and love.
Come, Holy Spirit, **send us your power.**

We pray for those who long to sing and dance with joy
and for those whose lives overflow with enthusiasm
and the sheer happiness of knowing that they are accepted;
for those who are being filled with the Spirit

and for those who are genuinely seeking to use the gifts God has given
for the building up of his church
and for the glory of his name.

May the Holy Spirit
give us the gifts he chooses and not the ones we would seek or avoid.
Come, Holy Spirit, **send us your power.**

We pray for ourselves and for this church.
We ask that the mighty rushing wind of God's presence
and the fiery evidence of his cleansing power
will touch and change our whole way of living.
We ask that because of the Spirit's coming
nothing will ever be the same again.
We pray for courage to ask and for faithfulness in using his gifts.
We do not ask simply for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness or self-control.

We ask, and will go on asking,
to be filled with the Spirit
and trust that the fruit will come.
Come, Holy Spirit, **send us your power.**

In the name of Christ
and in the power of the Spirit. **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 391

O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your Church with life and power;
O breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your Church to meet this hour.

O wind of God, come, bend us, break us,
till humbly we confess our need;
then in your tenderness remake us,
revive, restore; for this we plead.

O breath of love, come, breathe within us,
renewing thought and will and heart;
come, love of Christ, afresh to win us,
revive your Church in every part.

Revive us, Lord! Is zeal abating
while harvest fields are vast and white?
Revive us, Lord, the world is waiting,
equip your church to spread the light.

Elizabeth Ann (Bessie Porter) Head (1850–1936)

Blessing & Dismissal

Copyright Acknowledgements where not already indicated above:

Items marked 500 taken from *500 Prayers for All Occasions*, by David Clowes, © 2003, 2009. Published by David C Cook and Kingsway Communications. Used with permission.

Scripture passages marked GNB taken from the *Good News Bible (Today's English Version Second Edition, UK/ British Edition)*. © 1992 British & Foreign Bible Society. Used by permission. Taken from www.bible.com

Scripture passages marked NIV from *The Holy Bible, New International Version (Anglicised)*, © 1979, 1984, 2011 Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. Taken from www.bible.com

Scripture passages marked NRSV from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. From the Oremus Bible Browser, bible.oremus.org.

Items marked Roots, © 2021 Roots for Churches Ltd, www.rootsontheweb.com. Used with permission.