



# Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 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, 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.

*“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13*

## Notices

**Annual Church Meeting** Written reports (or apologies for absence of) to Marion by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June so that the meeting can consider a comprehensive summary of Church activities during the past 15 months or so.

**Church Cleaning** Thanks to those who came along yesterday for the monthly clean – much appreciated. *Robin*

**Cross Lighting** This coming Monday (ie tomorrow the 7<sup>th</sup>), our electrician will be returning to update the lighting within the cross at the front of the Church. At the same time, we will be looking at some elements of the Church Centre wiring which have been flagged for attention, so that I can understand what the issues and solutions are. This date has been chosen because it will be possible to turn off the various circuits we want to work on without affecting any users. The Church and all areas to the right of the Link room courtyard entrance will therefore be a ‘work site’ for the day – so ‘No Entry’ please. Thanks for your co-operation and understanding. *Robin*

## Around the Trolley

**Helen’s new great-grandson.** I am delighted to announce the arrival of a second son to Richard (my grandson) and Flora at 02:01 on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

He weighed in at a solid 9lbs 5ozs, and they are remaining in hospital for a few days as they were in and out a couple of times and have picked up an infection. *Helen*



**Roald Dahl** – feedback from the children’s drama week held in our Church Centre during the half term week by Upper Norwood Library Hub has been very positive. They are looking at returning during the summer break for another workshop, which can only be to our mutual benefit. *Robin*

**Just a reminder** that we are still collecting red, green, and blue milk bottle tops, warm clothing for the Whitechapel Mission, and tinned/packet food for Foodbank. Donations can be left in our porch at 198 Stoneleigh Park Road at any time, or by the back stairs in Church on Sundays. *Robin*

**Tomorrow, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 4:00pm - Church Council.** The Agenda and supporting papers have been sent out by email. If you need the Zoom Link then please contact Marion.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Annual Church Meeting.** This will follow on from the morning Service on June 20<sup>th</sup> – 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 by June 9<sup>th</sup> so that the meeting can consider a comprehensive summary of Church activities during the past 15 months or so.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Meanwhile there is a sheet next to the Memorial Book in Church – please ask a Steward should you wish a name added to this year’s page.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Contact Details

**Website:** - [stoneleighmethodist.church](http://stoneleighmethodist.church)

**Contact:** Jeananne (07729 028850) - [contact@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:contact@stoneleighmethodist.church)

**All items for future NewsSheets** – to [news@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto: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](mailto: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			<a href="#">Click</a>
Sunday Service (Zoom)	Sunday 10:30am	874 6773 6490		

# Morning Worship - Sunday 6 June, 10:30am

*led by Richard Graham*

Watch live on YouTube: [youtu.be/r7TA1WHkz-M](https://youtu.be/r7TA1WHkz-M) or join on Zoom: [bit.ly/2J5jvY8](https://bit.ly/2J5jvY8)

To join the Morning Service through Zoom go to [bit.ly/2J5jvY8](https://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

(Roots)

Come, all of you, just as you are, to worship.  
Whether today you feel strong or weak, full or empty,  
God welcomes us all into his house.  
Come just as you are to worship.

## Psalm 138

(NIRV)

LORD, I will praise you with all my heart.  
In front of those who think they are gods  
I will sing praise to you.  
I will bow down facing your holy temple.  
I will praise your name,  
because you are always loving and faithful.  
You have honoured your holy word  
even more than your own fame.  
When I called out to you, you answered me.  
You made me strong and brave.

LORD, may all the kings on earth praise you  
when they hear about  
what you have decided.

LORD, may they sing about  
what you have done,  
because your glory is great.

Though the LORD is high above all,  
he cares for the lowly.  
Though he is in heaven above,  
he sees them on earth below.  
Trouble is all around me,  
but you keep me alive.  
You reach out your hand to put a stop  
to the anger of my enemies.  
With your powerful right hand you save me.

LORD, you will show  
that I was right to trust you.  
LORD, your faithful love continues forever.  
You have done so much for us,  
so don't stop now.

## Prayer of Approach

(MWB)

Gracious God,  
as we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
may the light of your presence  
set our hearts on fire with love for you,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Adoration

(MWB)

Blessèd are you, Lord our God:  
in your love you create all things out of nothing  
through your eternal Word.

**We glorify and adore you.**

Blessèd are you, Lord our God:  
in your love you redeemed the world  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We glorify and adore you.**

Blessèd are you, Lord our God:  
in your love you empower your people  
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**We glorify and adore you. Amen.**

## Hymn: Singing the Faith 64

Praise is rising,  
eyes are turning to you;  
we turn to you.  
Hope is stirring,  
hearts are yearning for you;  
we long for you.

'Cause when we see you  
we find strength to face the day.  
In your presence  
all our fears are washed away,  
washed away.

*Hosanna, hosanna,  
you are the God who saves us;  
worthy of all our praises.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
come have your way among us;  
we welcome you here Lord Jesus.*

Hear the sound  
of hearts returning to you;  
we turn to you.  
In your kingdom  
broken lives are made new;  
you make all things new.  
'Cause when we see you . . .

*Hosanna . . .*

## Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness

(500)

Father, forgive our narrow-mindedness and our prejudice.  
Forgive us for accepting only that which we can understand,  
and those with whom we agree.  
Forgive our too easy rejection of other people  
and their styles of worship, their hopes and their fears.  
Forgive our unwillingness to be enriched by each other's insights,  
each other's prayers  
and each other's praise.  
Forgive and warm our cold hearts,  
awaken our closed minds,  
invigorate our tired praise.  
Set our lives ablaze with your love  
so that we may love, serve and hear you all the time and everywhere  
and you may receive the glory you deserve. **Amen.**

God of truth and mercy,  
where we break down – you build up;  
where we damage – you repair;  
where we blaspheme – you bless;  
where we isolate – you include;  
where we go wrong – you put us right;  
where we confess – you forgive;  
where we begin again – you are with us.  
In Jesus' name. Amen

(Roots)

## Readings: Mark 3: 20-35

(NIrV)

### Jesus is accused by Teachers of the Law & Jesus' Mother and Brothers

Jesus entered a house. Again, a large crowd gathered. It was so large that Jesus and his disciples were not even able to eat. His family heard about this. So they went to take charge of him saying, "He is out of his mind."

Some teachers of the law were there. They had come down from Jerusalem. They said, "He is controlled by Beelzebul! He is driving out demons by the power of the prince of demons."

So Jesus called them over to him. He began to speak to them using stories. He said, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom fights against itself, it can't stand. If a family is divided, it can't stand. And if Satan fights against himself, and his helpers are divided, he can't stand. That is the end of him. In fact, none of you can enter a strong man's house unless you tie him up first. Then you can steal things from his

house. What I'm about to tell you is true. Everyone's sins and evil words against God will be forgiven. But whoever speaks evil things against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. Their guilt will last forever."

Jesus said this because the teachers of the law were saying, "He has an evil spirit."

Jesus' mother and brothers came and stood outside. They sent someone in to get him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus. They told him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside. They are looking for you."

"Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" he asked.

Then Jesus looked at the people sitting in a circle around him. He said, "Here is my mother! Here are my brothers! Anyone who does what God wants is my brother or sister or mother."

## **2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1**

(NIRV)

It is written in the Psalms [116: 10], "I believed, and so I have spoken." We have that same spirit of faith. So we also believe and speak. We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from the dead. And he will also raise us up with Jesus. And he will present both you and us to himself. All this is for your benefit. God's grace is reaching more and more people. So they will become more and more thankful. They will give glory to God.

We don't give up. Our bodies are becoming weaker and weaker. But our spirits are being renewed day by day. Our troubles are small. They last only for a short time. But they are earning for us a glory that will last forever. It is greater than all our troubles. So we don't spend all our time looking at what we can see. Instead, we look at what we can't see. That's because what can be seen lasts only a short time. But what can't be seen will last forever.

We know that the earthly tent we live in will be destroyed. But we have a building made by God. It is a house in heaven that lasts forever. Human hands did not build it.

## **Hymn: Singing the Faith 455**

All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray our trust;  
what with care and toil we fashion,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom passing thought;  
splendour, light, and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of nought.  
Evermore from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all  
ye who follow shall not fall.

Daily doth the almighty giver  
bounteous gifts on us bestow;  
his desire our soul delighteth,  
pleasure leads us where we go.  
Love doth stand at his hand;  
joy doth wait on his command.

Robert Bridges (1844–1930) (alt.)  
based on Joachim Neander (1650–1680)

## Message

### Prayers of Intercession

(500)

We pray for a renewed sense of our being one in Christ  
and for a deeper sense of our belonging together and to each other;  
for a new joy in being the people of God  
and a fresh delight in each other's fellowship.  
May our life together bring glory to God  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a new desire to help, care for and support each other  
and a new readiness to give encouragement and thanks  
for all that we receive through our fellowship in Christ;  
for a new joy in accepting and affirming  
even those with whom we disagree.  
May our fellowship in Christ bring hope to our neighbour.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a new acceptance of each other's worship  
and a new openness to share in each other's praise;  
for a new willingness to listen to each other's witness to the truth  
and for a new ability to break out of our prejudiced positions  
and to break down all the walls that divide.  
May the love of Christ bind us together.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a new sharing of each other's pain and sorrows,  
a new listening to others' doubts and fears,  
a new desire to accept and affirm every member  
and a new welcome for all who feel they are strangers.

We ask to be set free from any sense of self-righteousness  
and from anything that would hinder the declaration of the good news.

May the power of the Holy Spirit make us new.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a church that can live with diversity  
and with the tensions caused by those we think are different;

for a church that can welcome all those  
with different hopes and fears, different visions and dreams,  
different words and ways, different songs and prayers,  
who are of different colour and from different nations.

We ask for God's grace to blend them into one body in Christ.

May our oneness in Christ bring glory to God.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a church that will not be afraid of standing for the truth  
and for a church that will always be seeking

new words and new ways of making the gospel known.

We pray for a church that never settles for second best;

that is always committed to declaring the forgiveness of sin and new life in Christ.

May the joy of Christ flood into every part of our life together.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a church that is concerned  
for those who are lonely and rejected

and reaches out to those who are bitter and lost;

for those whose lives are filled with sadness and sorrow

and for those who feel defeated and of no value;

for a church concerned for the hungry and starving

and the needs of a nation that has lost its way and has forgotten to trust in God.

May the power of the Spirit give us wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a church that declares the good news

for the poor in body, mind or spirit;

for a church that gives high priority to prayer and outreach,

to mission and service, to the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit;

for a church that declares Christ as Saviour and Lord

and places him and his kingdom at the heart of all that it says and does.

May the Spirit set us free for Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves and our longing to be open to the work of the Spirit  
and to allow him to change all that we say and do in Christ's name.  
We ask for freedom and joy in our witness  
and a deeper experience of walking with Christ;  
for a peace and a courage and a hope  
that lead others to a knowledge of Christ as Lord.  
May the Holy Spirit use us in ways we never expected.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

(MWB)

**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 691**

The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation  
by water and the word;  
from heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

Called out from every nation,  
yet one through all the earth,  
her charter of salvation  
one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses,  
and shares one holy food,  
as to one hope she presses  
with every grace endued.

We see her long divided  
by heresy and sect;  
yet she by God is guided  
one people, one elect:  
her vigil she is keeping,  
her cry goes up, 'How long?'  
and soon the night of weeping  
shall be the dawn of song.

In toil and tribulation,  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace for evermore;  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blest,  
at last the Church victorious  
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic, sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, grant to us your grace,  
with them, the meek and lowly,  
in heaven to see your face.

Samuel John Stone (1832–1900)

## **Blessing & Dismissal**

(MWB)

The love of the Father enfold us,  
the wisdom of the Son enlighten us,  
the fire of the Spirit enflame us;  
and the blessing of God, the Three in One  
be upon us and abide with us now and forever. **Amen.**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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