



Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 26th September 2021, 10:30am

Morning Worship led by the Rev Emma Cusack

including the Baptism of Jessica Joyce Lawrence

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

Prayers

Please pray for Emma leading our Service here today; for our Stewards, for Jessica and her family and friends; and for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work for the benefit of all in all weathers. 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 or visit from friends.

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Deuteronomy 31:8

Notices

THIS WEEK our Morning Worship will include the Baptism of Jessica Joyce Lawrence, daughter of Paul & Stacy Lawrence and granddaughter of the late Geoff Lawrence. Guests are asked to wear masks in Church. Light refreshments will be served in the Link room afterwards.

CIRCUIT SERVICE at 3:00pm today will be at **Christ Church with St Philip, Worcester Park**, and also available on their [Facebook page](#) simultaneously and afterwards. The Service will acknowledge Viv Newitt as a fully accredited Local Preacher. As many will know, Viv has been studying and training to become a Local Preacher for a number of years. Having successfully completed the Faith & Worship Course and with the Local Preachers' Meeting having been suitably convinced of her call to preach, Viv has been 'fully accredited' for some time and has subsequently been patiently waiting throughout the pandemic for a service of recognition to mark this fact. Please join us for this very special service. *Paul*

CHURCH CLEANING will be next Saturday, October 2nd, between 10:00am and noon. With all areas of the Church Centre now back in use, all comers are very welcome – no need to book! *Robin*

BEING A CHRISTIAN and METHODISM – our Zoom course continues this Monday (and the following Monday) at 8:00pm. Contact me to find out more and for the Zoom link. *Vivienne*

HORTON CEMETERY – Epsom Council have agreed to place Horton Cemetery on the Local Heritage list, which will give it much needed protection. Thanks to all who supported this request. *Lesley*

NEWSHEET PREPARATION – from this weekend some minor changes will be made to the timing of the week's NewsSheet preparation. If you want to get an item in the sheet then you should still aim to get it to me by 6:00pm Friday, after which the draft will be circulated to the Minister and Stewards (this will allow Emma to once again review the content, as she did pre-Covid) before it goes to press. Printing will now be done on Saturday evening, and the emailed copies will be sent out around 8:00am Sunday morning. Jeananne will continue to ensure that those without computer access will receive their copies as soon as possible. *Robin*

NEXT WEEK (3rd October) our Morning Worship will be led by the Rev Chris Morley.

COVID LATEST – Separation and Ventilation are the current keywords from the Government. At our Church we ask you to sit a little apart from those who are not in your usual circle of family or friends, wearing a mask for the time being if you can. And, for our part, we will encourage natural ventilation from the outside by opening windows and doors – the heating will automatically turn itself up to circulate the air as well. And don't forget to 'gel' as you arrive, please. Keep safe. *Robin*

VIRTUAL LONDON MARATHON Next Sunday, 3rd October, Amanda is taking part in this event; she has to walk 26 miles in 24 hours, not necessarily continuously.

She is hoping to raise money for WAGGS and Girlguiding Surrey East, also our local Foodbank. If you would like to contribute you can do so to me, and I'll pass it on, or you could donate direct to virgmoneygiving where it can be Gift Aided. Thank you – *Denise*

FOODBANK Here's what Foodbank need this week. Thanks for all of your donations, big or small, we are really grateful. Every item you donate helps us to feed those in need.

- Nappies - size 5+ (URGENT),
- Shaving foam
- Kids toothbrushes
- Female & male deodorant
- Meat pies
- Shampoo
- Long life sponge puddings

- Powdered Milk
- Shower gel
- Squash
- Tinned fruit
- Bags for Life -
we urgently need these



You might also like to have a look at their Harvest Appeal video [on Twitter](#).

We also accept monetary donations to support our work – paying for things like storage equipment etc. Click [here](#) to make a regular or one-off donation, where you can gift aid your donation (if applicable). Or you can send a cheque, payable to Epsom & Ewell Foodbank and post it to Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG. *Thanks*

PS – there will be collections for Foodbank at our own Harvest Service, 10:30am on Sunday 10th October here at Stoneleigh Methodist Church – these will be for both tinned and packeted food, and monetary (cash or cheque).

You might have skipped over the Book of Numbers in the past, assuming that it was another book of rules and, well, numbers. But this week's passages from Numbers contain something you might not have thought would appear in the Bible – a talking donkey (but no ogre named Shrek...)



SEPTEMBER

Sunday 26	Psalm 90	(Psalm of Moses)
Monday 27	Numbers 22	(Balaam - 1)
Tuesday 28	Numbers 23	(Balaam - 2)
Wednesday 29	Numbers 24	(Balaam - 3)
Thursday 30	Numbers 25	(Zimri)

OCTOBER

Friday 1	Numbers 27:1-11 & ch 36	(female inheritance)
Saturday 2	Deuteronomy 31:7 to 13, 32:48 to 52 & ch 34	(death of Moses)

Morning Worship, 26 September, 10:30am

Celebrating the Baptism of Jessica Joyce Lawrence

led by the Rev Emma Cusack

Watch live, or at a time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/xwf0OPLfS-w

or join on Zoom: bit.ly/2J5ivY8

To join the service through Zoom on your landline phone,
dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement and when prompted,
enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by #;
just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID;
and when prompted, the passcode **702336** followed by #.

You will then be connected to the service – simply hang up at the end
or whenever you wish to leave.

Welcome & Prayer for the Church Family

Call to Worship

(Roots)

Step by step we walk with Christ:
through the waters of baptism, we are affirmed;
through the wilderness, we are tested;
through the death of Christ
we are made alive in the Spirit.
This is our journey, today and every day.
We walk with Christ,
today and every day.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 100

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

The purple heathered mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well:

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

BAPTISM: THE DECLARATION:

Sisters and brothers,

Baptism is a gift of God.

It declares to each of us the love and grace of God.

In this sacrament we celebrate
the life of Christ laid down for us,
the Holy Spirit poured out on us,
and the living water offered to us.

God claims and cleanses us,
rescues us from sin,
and raises us to new life.

He plants us into the Church of Christ
and sustains and strengthens us
with the power of the Spirit.

Although we do not deserve these gifts of grace,
or fully understand them,
God offers them to all,
and, through Christ, invites us to respond.

We recall the words of the risen Christ:

‘All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything
that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age’.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached the Gospel of Christ's resurrection. Those who heard the message asked what they should do. Peter told them:

'Repent, and be baptised, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus Christ
so that your sins may be forgiven;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
For the promise is for you,
for your children,
and for all who are far away,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 539:

On this baptism day, God we thank you
for the water, new life and call.
For this child given life by your Spirit
the potential offered to us all.

*Praise the Father! Praise the Spirit!
Praise the Son on this Baptismal Day!
For the gift of life is precious;
so, we worship God today.*

We baptise in response to our maker,
who has promised to be our guide.
We rejoice for new life God has given
and his pledge to travel by our side.

Praise the Father . . .

Lord we praise you for Jesus our Saviour,
for your love that he showed on earth,
how he offers us life by his Spirit
showing us the way to our new birth.

Praise the Father . . .

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THE REQUEST FOR BAPTISM

The parents and godparents of the child to be baptised stand.

Paul and Stacy, having heard these things,
how do you respond to the offer of God's grace?

We thank God and ask that our child be baptised.

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

You are invited to stand if you are able.

Gracious God, we thank you
for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit,
for your sustaining, cleansing and life-giving power.

From the beginning
your grace has been made known
through water and the Spirit.

Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation
and you led your people to freedom through a parted sea.
In fullness of time you sent Jesus.
He was baptised in the waters of Jordan
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
He passed through the deep waters of death
and lives for evermore.
He offers living water
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The minister extends her hands over the water

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that the one baptised in this water
may die to sin, be raised with Christ,
and be born to new life in the family of your Church.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The people remain standing. The minister says to the parents and godparents:

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?
By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God,
trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?
By the grace of God, I do

The minister says to everyone present:

We say together:
**We believe in God the Father,
who made the world.
We believe in Jesus, his Son,
who redeemed humankind.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God.**

THE BAPTISM

The minister says to the parents:

What name have you given this child?

The parents respond with the Christian names of the child: Jessica Joyce.

The minister says to the one to be baptised:

Jessica Joyce, for you Jesus Christ came into the world;
for you he lived and showed God's love;
for you he suffered death on the Cross;
for you he triumphed over death,
rising to newness of life;
for you he prays at God's right hand;
all this for you,
before you could know anything of it.
In your Baptism,
the word of Scripture is fulfilled:
'We love, because God first loved us'

The minister, taking the child into her arms, pours water generously and visibly on the child's head three times saying:

Jessica Joyce, I baptise you
in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the child, saying:

Jessica Joyce, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

Please be seated.

A lighted candle is given to the parents or godparents.

The Cradle Roll secretary of the local church says to the child:

Jessica Joyce,
receive this light
for you belong to Christ,
the Light of the world.

Christ is your Light and your Way.

May you grow and live in the faith of Christ. Amen.

The newly baptised child is shown to the people.

All say together:

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you;
The Lord look on you with kindness and give you peace. Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

The parents remain standing, and the minister says to them:

Paul and Stacy, I ask you now to respond to God's love and grace to your child by making these promises.

Will you love Jessica Joyce,
committing yourselves to care for her
in body, mind and spirit?

With God's help we will

Will you, therefore,
ensure that she is nurtured
in the faith and life of the Christian community?

With God's help we will

Will you set before her a Christian example,
that through your prayers, words and deeds,
she may learn the way of Christ?

With God's help we will.

The minister says to the godparents:

Timothy, Karen and Rachel,
will you help Paul and Stacy
to nurture Jessica Joyce in the Christian faith?

With God's help we will.

THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand if they are able. The minister says to them:

Members of the body of Christ, we rejoice that Jessica Joyce has been baptised.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that she may grow in grace
and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

With God's help we will.

Please be seated.

A certificate of Baptism is given

The minister says:

Let us pray together.

Generous God, touch us again

with the fire of your Spirit

and renew in us all

the grace of our Baptism;

that we may profess the one true faith

and live in love and unity

with all who are baptised into Christ. Amen

Reflective music: *The Blessing* by Cody Carnes and Kari Jobe.

The great commission

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Acts 2: 36-39

[Peter said:] 'Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.'

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'

Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.'

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

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 82

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home — what joy shall fill my heart;
then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim: my God, how great thou art:

Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989), based on *O store Gud* (1885) by Carl Gustaf Boberg (1859–1940)
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Closing Prayer

(Roots)

God of all friendship,
help us this week to make life
worthwhile for others.
Inspire us to treat people
fairly and equally.
And as we celebrate the humility of Jesus
in coming to John for baptism,
may we, through our knowledge of the way of Christ,
reach out to others
and let them reach out to us in mutual dignity.
Amen.

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, evermore.

Amen

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