

June – July 2016

The Link

Stoneleigh Methodist Church Magazine



*Picture from Pat Petley –
Geoff's tulips opened up during the service to create this wonderful display.*

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*Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray.
Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.
The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*

James 5: 13,16b. NLT

**If you would like an item to be in
“The Link” please send it to**

Vivienne Ridgway
vivienne@ridgworld.com

**Articles for inclusion in the next
LINK should be with Vivienne by
July 10th 2016**

*The right to edit or omit articles is reserved to
SMC, The Minister and Stewards*

*The views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of SMC as a whole*

Taize - Time for a good rest

I spent the week before Holy Week in retreat at Taize, 'that little springtime', a small religious community located deep in the peaceful countryside of Burgundy, a place so quiet that the hurly burly of the world seems to melt away as soon the bus rattles to a stop.

The rhythm of daily life at Taize is hypnotic. There are bells to wake up, bells to call the community to worship in the morning, at noon, and last thing in the evening. Each day is bound together in sung prayer and praise. The simplicity of life strips away all non-essentials, and enables the pilgrims who come each week to consider what kind of foundation their lives are resting on. It is only when we know what is stable in our lives, what is central to our spirituality, that we can begin to have a heart which is open to risk, to mercy, to the mystery of ourselves and others. Mercy is having a heart which is open to risk: mercy allows us to lose control; mercy knows no boundaries, no ends.

In our every day world, we drive ourselves from one exhaustion to another. We pace our societies by the pace of our computers. We conduct the major relationships of our lives—both professional and personal—according to the speed of our communications. We measure ourselves by the amount of our productivity and every day we become more exhausted, less rested in body, spirit and mind, and so less capable of producing things, let alone of developing relationships, as a result. That's not irony, that's tragedy. And though we know it, we do not know what to do about it.

Maybe what we all need most is time to process what we already know so that we can put it together differently, even more effectively than ever before. Maybe we need to think a bit, out on a porch in a summer breeze, down by the creek when the trout are running, back in the garden when it's time to put the beets and beans in again.

Turn off the television and read a good book. Quit texting and ride your bike. Close the computer and go to a movie. Don't answer any email. Don't try to "get ahead." Don't take any callbacks. And during dinner, turn off your phone. When the television is on, watch it instead of talking through it. Reclaim your life, your thoughts, your personality, your friends, your family.

No, the world will not end. And no, the rest of the rat race will not get ahead of you. They'll be too tired to even think about catching up.

Take time to sleep in like you did in the good old days. Have a late breakfast. Read the newspapers all day long. Call some friends for a game of cards. Sometimes the most urgent and vital thing you can possibly do is take a complete rest.

Go to Taize. It is a small, peace-filled paradise. Or find a quiet spot to look out on the water, listen to the birds, take a walk in the forest. Let the God of light fill you with his peace, his light, his joy, his love. Believe the good news: you are beloved. Thanks be to God - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Every blessing, Martine*



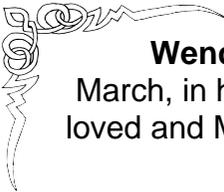
Memorial Service

We are holding a memorial service on Sunday 19th June 2016 at 10:30am. This is an open invitation to anyone who has lost a loved one in recent years and who would welcome the chance to join others in a service of quiet thanksgiving.

The loss of a close member of the family or a friend can leave one with a sense of loss that is never filled; over time it is possible to begin to cope with that loss, but one may never feel that the loss is overcome. We hope that this service will offer an opportunity to those coming to terms with their loss.

If you would like a name added to our Memorial Book, which is on open display in the Church throughout the year and will be read out during the Service, you can do so simply by speaking to a Steward on Sunday, adding the name to one of the lists,

or emailing stewards@stoneleighmethodist.church



Wendy Meech passed away on Sunday afternoon 20th March, in hospital with her family around her. She was greatly loved and Michael, their family and friends, are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

A remembrance service for her was held at Epsom Methodist Church on Friday, April 15th, at 2:00 p.m. and was led by Revd Dr Mark Wakelin; The committal service at Randalls Park Crematorium was at 3:30 p.m followed by a reception at Woodlands Park Hotel.



Michael Meech writes:-

I have had so many letters of sympathy from people at Stoneleigh Church and also the Circuit I can't cope with them. Could you possibly slip a note into the next edition of The Link Thank you for your help.

Reverend Michael Meech, Sarah & Andrew Meech, and Judith & Alan Green would like to thank members of the Church and the wider community for their prayers, letters and messages expressing their sympathy at the time of his wife Wendy's death. Wendy loved the Methodist Church and appreciated the love she was shown and will be remembered as someone who made sure that Women's' Fellowship, Monday Club and Genesis were well run and had imaginative programmes. She was also a Local Preacher in the Circuit and some years ago a Sunday School teacher.

*Good wishes and thanks
Michael*





Film Club

The date booked next month is 20th June. I'll let you know the film nearer the time

Vivienne



CTE week of Prayer in May

During the week of prayer May 9th -13th a prayer aid was circulated in which prayers were asked:-

- for our Churches and the work of God in Stoneleigh and Ewell
- for a Coordinator for the “Together at Christmas” meal.
- also for the various services & events in our churches celebrating the Queen’s 90th birthday.
- for our local schools - for “Open the Book” & “Craftzone”.
- for Street Pastors
- and for preparations for “HOPE” at Bourne Hall on Sunday 26th June.

In the words of a member of one of our churches:

“As we meet together for HOPE this summer we pray your love will flow throughout the whole event, witnessing to all who come.”

*“Living God take our bodies & let them work for you,
take our minds & let them dream for you,
take our hearts & let them beat for you,
take our spirits & let them soar for you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Amen.



Annual Church Meeting

Our annual Church Meeting was held on Sunday 10th April, after which we enjoyed a lunch together.

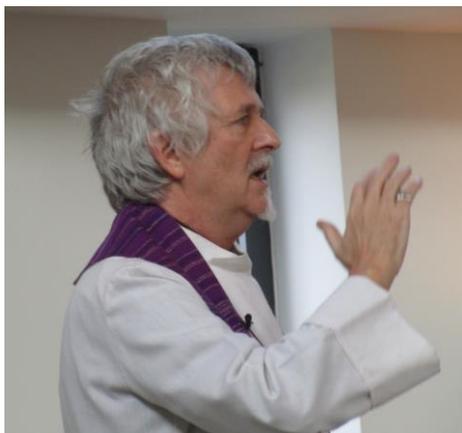
After opening prayers, and agreeing the minutes of last year's meeting, we heard reports from all areas of church life. The notable points were:

- This year is Martine's last before retiring. We will miss her greatly. In particular we are thankful for her openness, dedicated Ministry and unflagging Pastoral care.
- We enjoyed a singing and worship weekend with John Bell.
- We are poorer for the loss of Angela Mynett, Peter Tolley, Wendy Meech, Pat Rock, Bernard Chessum and Pauline Dunstone; all of whom were actively associated with differing aspects of Church life.
- Pat and Pauline both made generous bequests to our church.
- Conquest Art is thriving. Our group now has 13 members, and other groups are opening in other churches in the area.
- Tuesday Fellowship remains popular, while Knit and Natter and Film Club continue to offer Christian fellowship to all.
- One new initiative has started in the last month. Called 'Breathing Space' the church is open for quiet times, sitting, praying or silently reading God's Word on Tuesday evenings, between 6.30pm and 8pm.

Vivienne

John Bell - Renewing Worship and Revitalizing the Church's Song !

John Bell — preacher, teacher, broadcaster, ordained minister in the Church of Scotland, member of the Iona Community and the Wild Goose Resource Group — travels the world breathing new life into the worship and song of God's people. The Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG) is about liturgy and worship, music and song, prayer and politics, diversity and devotion,



participation and perception, curiosity and creativity, laughter and a lively sense of the absurd. Their particular gift is training and enabling the laity to lead worship. John brought all of these gifts and more when he visited Ruxley Church and Stoneleigh Methodist Church in February.

The first time I met John, I was in seminary at Southern Methodist University. The chapel was packed. Our small seminary choir had spent several weeks practising a few new songs from the global church, but we lacked the confidence to teach these new songs in worship. John, bearded like an Old Testament prophet, strode up to the front, fixed us in his brilliant blue gaze, divided the congregation into 4 parts, and had us singing a new song in Swahili within two minutes. It was magic! "How many can hear me?" he asked. We dutifully nodded our heads. "How many can understand me," he said in a strong Scottish brogue. Three hesitant hands inched up.

Twenty years later, the magic still sparkles but his brogue is far easier to understand. Often, the liturgy and song of the Church seem to get stuck in the same old rut, especially during traditional seasons like Advent and Lent, so I had asked John to lead us on a

Lenten journey, introducing some new songs for each week of Lent and for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. John led us in Kyries from Pakistan and Ghana, songs of lament for times of suffering and bereavement, travelling songs for the disciples who reluctantly follow Jesus as he strides fearlessly toward Jerusalem. Easter morning we sang a glorious new song, "In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again. Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing 'Alleluia, amen!'"

One of the incomparable gifts of the Church is that we have a vocabulary of songs, not just for times of rejoicing, but for the people of God who find themselves abandoned, victims of calumny or war, families divided, forced into exile, women and children abused.

The Psalms, sung in worship, give voice to our anger and despair in words made new by singable tunes and simple settings. John encouraged us to sing 'How long, O Lord' (Ps 13), 'I waited patiently for God' (Ps 40), 'In my day of fear' (Ps 56), and 'O God you are my God alone' (Ps 63) as well as songs of rejoicing, so that we may worship and express our deepest grief, our outrage, as well as our joy when all is right with the world.



The wholehearted recommendation of the congregations at Ruxley and Stoneleigh is: 'Give yourself or your church a gift that keeps on giving: an evening, a weekend, or a week on Iona with John Bell and the Wild Goose Worship Group.' !

Revd Dr Martine Stemerick, Methodist minister!

Living God, as we wake to the fresh light of a new day,
help us, living God, to drink in your love and mercy
again.

May the ways of Jesus dwell vividly in our words and
deeds today.

Amid the pressure of many competing busy things aid us
to live in a full and free measure of thanksgiving, guided
by your Holy Spirit's leading,
to give more than we receive,
to be more holy than we appear,
and honour your name in all we do. Amen.

*Stephen Lindridge, Newcastle upon Tyne District
Chair.*

Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

When the beauty and the fragility of life stop us in our
tracks,
when the cruelty and injustices of life confront us with
deep questions,
when our walking and living is energised and purposeful.
when our feet falter and our hearts are hesitant,
when our souls are attuned in hope to singing and
dancing,
when our spirits are crushed and we feel alone in our
despair.
let us turn to you, ever present and constant companion.

Whatever this day's journey requires of us,
remind us of earthly companions and colleagues,
mentors and loved ones, seen and unseen, who journey
with us,
pilgrims on a shared journey into your depths and
fullness, O God,
and accept our profound wonder and thanks. Amen.

*Liz Smith, Leeds District Chair.(C)Trustees
Methodist Church Purnoses*



News Sheet - Help needed

At the moment there are only two people producing the News Sheet – Robin and me. We take turns (monthly) to compile it. All very simple really, once the initial set up is done (help available) and it can be very satisfying producing a publication.

Will those amongst you who have a computer and a couple of hours periodically to spare (or can find them) volunteer to join us, please?

Please speak either to Catherine or Helen

Operation Christmas Child.

After more consideration and having found someone who will take a few boxes, I have decided that I will do 20 Christmas Boxes this year. Anyone wishing to contribute items for the boxes may like to note what is required.



Toothpaste, toothbrush, wrapped soap, comb, small hairbrush, small packet tissues, hair ties for girls, small soft toy (EC marked), pens, pencils, crayons, cars, skipping rope, any item suitable for child 2-15, but nothing that is war related or can be used as a weapon (marbles) and no liquids.

Wrapped sweets can be donated as long as they have a long shelf date. Thank you in advance. *Denise Gould*

Tuesday Fellowship AGM

The A.G.M. went well and to replace Pat as secretary we now have Brenda doing birthdays, Jackie doing the programmes, Catherine is going to be the Minutes secretary, Jill will organise transport and I will report on the Fellowship meetings from time to time in the weekly news sheet.

Dorothy was presented with a lovely patio plant for serving twenty years as catering officer and Pat was given a bouquet.

Tom entertained us with beautiful pictures of Spring flowers seen on Ranmore Common, with wonderful close-ups.

Joan Tolley



Unmoved

In faith and with some hope I recently told SMC friends that, having ended my six years as a Church steward, I planned to sell my house and buy a flat for independent living on the MHA Ryelands site at Wallington. I now have to report that this will not happen in the foreseeable future. It became clear that for Paul and Stacy and I to move all our belongings into storage for an uncertain length of time and to move out with just our suitcases to willing relatives would be a challenge too far. The prospective buyer of my house wanted to move in with an impossible deadline to meet, and solicitors were dealing with matters that could not have been resolved in the limited time available. Alongside this the Wallington flat had not been cleared of the previous owner's unwanted belongings and also needed redecorating and new carpeting before becoming habitable.

In view of the complex situation presented to me I decided in early May to withdraw from the buying and selling process and to remain in the house at least until Paul and Stacy acquired a suitable home of their own. In the meantime I aim to make some long overdue improvements to the house, and the aborted move has resulted in a garage and loft cleared of many unwanted items. The Jumble Sale and Epsom Book Fair helped considerably in this operation. The result of all this means that while continuing to drive I remain able and willing to help with transport to and from SMC although I fully support the proposed scheme for a sharing operation. I shall also continue in worship and fellowship for as long as possible.

Geoff Lawrence



Ntunungwe News, Spring 2016

Dear Friends of Ntunungwe School,

The second term of 2016 opened on Tuesday. It has been a long break as the Easter holiday fell early this year and was included in the holiday.

Last term was not easy. Due to the El Nino-induced drought, the daily temperatures were very high and there was very little food in the fields. By the end of the term we were feeding over 100 Children daily on ePap porridge.

Then suddenly in March the heavens opened and the Ntunungwe area was blessed with a bountiful supply of precious rain. It has been a good 3 years since the area last received adequate rains. Some rivers which I have not seen running for 2 years were streaming with water and although the rivers are now no longer flowing the villagers are able to dig in the river beds and find adequate water. There will be a few crops now but still not enough to last for too long a period.

We have a wonderful set of 8 marimbas which were sorely in need of a service. We had the Marimba Man out this week and the marimbas are all back to the good order they ought to be in. He promises to come back to the School this coming week to spend a day giving lessons to the Children. African Children have a natural gift for music and they are loving this experience.

At the end of last term I took a tour through all the classrooms. Most of the classrooms still have blackboards painted on the walls and these are in a serious state of decay. We have been able to purchase new green chalk boards which will shortly be installed. I know it's years since you first worlders heard of chalk boards but for us third worlders this is certainly a mighty upgrade!

We have sadly had another Child bitten by a dog. Hopefully this time help has been found in time to avert a tragedy. I have left a full course of rabies vaccine with a 2018 expiry date at our local clinic to be used for our School should there be an emergency.

The electricity people were at School this week so hopefully soon there will be power at the School. What a difference this is going to make.

Thank you to you all for your interest in our School and to our very generous donors our heartfelt thanks. Without your help most of the improvements at the School would only be a dream. Thank you too for the ePap we are able to purchase which does so much for the Children's health and well-being. Our Grade 7s love the ePap and refused to help carry the supply I took to School this week until they were told some of it was for them. We feed this class twice a week and for them this is such a treat.

Zimbabwe is in serious trouble. The majority of the businesses and factories have closed and there are millions out of work. Food is available in the supermarkets but so many do not have the money to purchase this. This week's shock is that the reserve bank is going to start printing money again. We are all in for some hard times.

Warm Regards to you All,
From THE CHILDREN OF NTUNUNGWE SCHOOL, the Staff,
Student Development Council, the Parents, *Jean and Gill*

Services

5 th June	Holy Communion	Revd. Dr. Martine Stemerick
12 th June	Parade Service	Mr. David Eagle
19 th June	Memorial Service	Revd. Dr. Martine Stemerick
26 th June	Morning Worship	Mr. Tony Loft
3 rd July	Holy Communion	Revd. Dr. Martine Stemerick
10 th July	Morning Worship	Mrs. Brenda Cannon
17 th July	Morning Worship	Mr. David Eagle
24 th July	Morning Worship	Mrs. Valerie Ashcroft
31 st July	Morning Worship	Local Arrangement

Rota Duties

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Projection</u>
5 th June	Denise/Catherine	Corrinne/Miriam	Tom
12 th June	Denise/Gloria	Doris/Jeff	Tom
19 th June	Marion/Ernie	Brenda/Ken	Pat/Colin
26 th June	Val/Debbie	Norma A/Corrinne	Norma J
3 rd July	Ernie/Marion	Margaret/Jack	Pat/Colin
10 th July	Denise/Catherine	Lesley/Jeananne	Ken
17 th July	Val/Denise	Christine/Ruth	Denise
24 th July	Catherine/Debbie	Brenda/Ken	Tom
31 st July	Marion/Ernie	Doris/Jeff	Denise

Tuesday Fellowship

7 June	Revd. Dr. Stan Brown
14 June	Maureen & Richard Jackson Musical Memories
21 June	Riding for the Disabled
28 June	Revd. Dr. Martine Stemerick (Last visit to Fellowship)
5 July	Care for Uganda Revd. Margaret Adams
12 July	T B A
19 July	Painshill Park Trust
26 July	Garden Party at Barbara & Richard's



Carers and
Toddlers
celebrated
the Queen's
Birthday with
creative
activities!



Cake/Biscuit making and designing
the inside of a glass bowl. Great Fun was had by all!

Photos by Jeananne.

One of the activities on Church Cleaning Day – Attacking
cobwebs in seemingly impossible places. Catherine with her
recently created “Cobweb Broom” April 2nd

Pictures by Norma Jun-Tai

