

The Link

Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins
Fd.A; DipHE

Stoneleigh Methodist Church Magazine
February/March 2017



Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh, Epsom, Surrey KT19 0RT
www.stoneleighmethodist.church

Ntungungwe News



Grade 7s all looking the picture of health thanks to epap!

The new *lapa.
Currently the grade
7 classroom.
Some of the
infants playground
can be seen in the
background. Sadly
a poor quality
picture.
*A lapa is a thatched
gazebo



Grade 7s hard at work prior to
their national exams last month
(Oct 2016)

*Pictures submitted from an article
sent to Martine (see inside)*

From the Minister

Dear Friends,

May the Peace of the Lord be with you as you read this month's Link. The Lord has been gracious to us once again; blessed us with a New Year and we hope and pray that he will guide us through.

It is also my prayer that individually, we will have a closer walk with God. God will continue to bless us as we seek his face continually. You may have started the year very well whilst for some it may have begun slowly depending on our expectations. However and whatever it may be for you – hold firmly onto the Lord.

I came across the following prayers and would like to share:

“God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time”. (© <http://www.loyolapress.com>)

God bless you all,

Revd. *Emma Aikins*



Conquest Art Open Afternoon

We will be open to visitors on the afternoon of Monday March 20th from 2 – 4pm. We invite you to come along and enjoy tea and cake whilst viewing our Members' work and having a chat with the artists. Come and find out more about Conquest Art. We look forward to seeing you.

Lesley, Jeananne, Elaine, Kate and Chris.



WOODLAND
TRUST

Tree-planting at Langley Vale.

Last month the Woodland Trust contacted our church (among many other groups) appealing for volunteers to put on their wellies to help create a living tribute to all those who served in the First World War. The Trust's Centenary Woods Project seeks to commemorate the First World War – creating a living legacy that can grow and thrive for future generations.



Langley Vale is the Trust's 640 acre flagship site for England, and will be planted with tens of thousands of native trees and carpets of wildflowers.

I decided to go and see what was happening and took my daughter along too. (** see photos inside the back cover ed.*)

Really they were only two-year old trees – 12” sticks with a couple of ‘branches’. It was great to see a field transformed into a field of plastic green tubes. Each tree has its own stake and tree protector – against deer.

If you fancy a walk, it's about 20 mins from the car park on the very top of the Downs, in a south-westerly direction. (I went up at about 4pm one day and the sun was directly ahead of me)

Vivienne Ridgway.

Steward's Notes

A very Happy New Year to you all! We are now in the year 2017. It is very hard to believe that the Millennium was seventeen years ago and that all the preparations made to ensure the safe transition of our technology into the year 2000, passed without a hitch.

We are now capable of so much more with our mobile phones, iPads, tablets etc. We can contact friends on the other side of the world and even see them as we chat. Parents can keep tags on their children through different Apps and help to keep them safe.

What we need at Stoneleigh is an App to spread the word of Christ to all our neighbours and get them through the Church Doors!

Saying that, I think we could have, if not an actual App certainly the beginning of one, with our Minister, Rev. Emma Aikins. She managed to spread the word about our "Carols by Candlelight" service with the result that we had a far larger than expected congregation, filling SMC with wonderful singing and a great general buzz. Judging by the number who remained for refreshments after the service, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Our Crib Service on Christmas Eve was also very well attended with the usual happy chaos that always seems to ensue when you are dealing with children at Christmas time.

On Christmas day a number of our Church members, as they do every year, assisted the Churches together in Ewell "Alone at Christmas" dinner at Ruxley, by providing transport etc. I am not sure if those who dined this year knew that their meal had been prepared for them by a Michelin star Chef!

As I said, in my opening paragraph, we are now in 2017. The Christmas and New Year festivities are behind us, and the decorations have been put in the Loft. We have just had our Covenant Service, led by Emma and assisted by Richard Graham who is our new 'On Trial' local Preacher from Devon.

Our commitment to God and to the work of his Church has now been renewed so let us, at the beginning of this New Year, be aware of the needs of our congregation here at SMC. Let us be prepared to assist in all aspects of the Church life when we can.

Please feel free to speak to Emma or one of the Stewards about any of your concerns.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you. *Marion Baker*



For many years Helen Quaife has produced the Newsletter weekly for SMC, however, she now feels unable to continue with this work and has decided to stop as of now. Thank you Helen, for all the efficient, hard work you have put in to the production of our weekly information.

We would like someone to take over, if you feel like 'giving it a go' please volunteer; help/instruction can be given. It doesn't have to be all the time; it could be alternate months or for a couple of months at a time or any variation.

Thank you for your interest. *Catherine Draper, Steward*

For some time SMC and friends have collected plastic milk bottle lids. Dulcie gives them to a friend who is very grateful and she takes them to Portugal. Lately, people have become a little over enthusiastic and collected all sorts of plastic tops. However it is only **blue, green and red plastic milk bottle tops** which are reusable, not even orange ones can be reused.

Thank you for your help with this worthwhile collection. We hope to give you more information in the next Link *Catherine Draper*

Covenant Service:

Our annual Covenant Service was held on 8th January. Emma led us with help from Richard Graham who was “officially” introduced to us, so that he may continue his local preacher’s training.

The readings were from Deuteronomy, John and Romans. Emma made many points, and I expect that different members heard completely different messages. What stood out for me was firstly that God’s assistance is essential in our lives of service to him. Secondly, Emma spoke a line that stayed with me – ‘Are we doing a job well to please God?’; a challenge to me, happy to muddle through. Thirdly was the point that the covenant held good for those who were unable to be present for whatever reason.

I pray that in our lives of service this year we may depend on our Lord, and do the best we can.

Vivienne Ridgway

**Richard has recently moved to Ewell from his home in Devon.*



John 15: 5b

‘Apart from me you can do nothing’

Deuteronomy 29:10-15 (abridged)

All of you are standing today in the presence of the Lord your God.... To enter into a covenant with the Lord your God.... To confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God.... I am making this covenant not only with you who are standing here in the presence of the Lord our God, but also with those who are not here today..

Romans 12: 2

Do not conform any longer with the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Extract from Ntungungwe Autumn Newsletter

....."We are in desperate need of rain. The temperatures have been in 40s. The list of children requiring extra food seems to get longer by the day and at present Mrs Maphosa is feeding 35 children at break each day. The banana flavoured epap goes down a treat and it certainly makes for happy healthy children. Thank you so much to those that make the feeding scheme possible.

Thank you so much to you all for your interest and generosity to our school. Your help is invaluable and it is hard to describe just how much your help means to every single child. Hopefully they will grow up good healthy Zimbabwe citizens.

Once again the country is in crisis. The government has exchanged US dollars for pieces of paper called treasury bills and now want to introduce bond notes which appear to be equivalent to the US dollar. The bond notes will alleviate long daily queues of very patient people trying to withdraw \$50 of their own money from banks which have no money! However empty shops will be the result. I'm not sure how this will all end!.....

Warm regards and special thanks to you all, The Staff, Parents and Children of Ntungungwe school & Gill"

Extract from a further email to Martine

There has also been an amazing gift of a beautiful jersey which arrived in the post by some miracle. We would very much like to thank the sender but we do not have her full address. Her name is Catherine Draper from Epsom in Surrey. The beautiful jersey was given to Eric a sad little boy in the Special Needs class. He's sad because no one at home seems to care for him. We all try to help and recently I bought him a new school uniform. He was wearing the same clothes every day and the school give him some soap from time to time. He is of course on the ePap feeding list and looks pretty good on his daily ration of porridge.

The Children are all looking pretty good and those on the feeding scheme are blossoming.

Greetings from Devon

The Link plopped through our letter box on a beautiful autumnal morning. The sky is a perfect blue, the decking is icy and the washing machine refused to work for half an hour because the water was frozen! We had kept the wood burner in overnight so I cosied up in front of the fire and enjoyed reading the news from Stoneleigh Methodist Church.

Thank you so much for keeping us in touch with what has always been such an important part of my life. It's great to read about all the activities and it brings back so many happy memories - even those dreaded jumble sales!

It is also very sad to read of friends who have died but it makes us reflect on the wonderful way they have influenced our lives and the life of Stoneleigh Methodist Church.

We have had a very busy year with our Methodist Church in Bishopsteignton. We were in danger of losing the facility of a doctor's surgery in the village and after many years of difficulties we have finally got a first rate surgery in our church hall. Nearly everyone in the village is delighted with the outcome. As a result of this we have removed the pews from the church (keeping a few cut down and on castors), carpeted the church and made the vestry into a kitchen so the church is now a multi-purpose building. It used to be used for 1hour+ on 3 out of 4 weeks and is now used at least 3 or 4 times a week. Sadly we haven't seen a magic influx of folks to our Sunday worship but people are coming onto the premises and loving it.

We still meet up each year with Mary (Jordan), Anne (Beeston), and Grace (Bidwell) and husbands. Every meeting we reminisce about our childhood in Stoneleigh and how much we owe to SMC.

Thank you!

Tricia and Eddy Stephenson

**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
March 10th 2017**

*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*

Services

5 th February	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma Aikins
12 th February	Morning Service	Revd. Margaret Adams
19 th February	Morning Service	Brenda Cannon
26 th February	Morning Service	Viv Newitt & Brenda Cannon
5 th March	Holy Communion	TO BE ADVISED
12 th March	Morning Service	“
19 th March	Morning Service	“
26 th March	Morning Service	“

Rota Duties

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
5 th February	Catherine/Denise	Brenda/Ken	Denise
12 th February	Val/Denise	Margaret/Jack	Norma J
19 th February	Denise/Debbie	Ruth/Christine	Ken
26 th February	Geoff/Gloria	Brenda/Ken	Robin
5 th March	TO BE ADVISED
12 th March	“
19 th March	“
26 th March	“

Tuesday Fellowship

7 th February	Revd. Barrie Tabraham
14 th February	Ewell Ladies Choir
21 st February	Cambridge and Other Trips – Tom Turner
28 th February	“My Favourite Things” – Part 2
7 th March	Revd. Paul Timmis
14 th March	Musical Memories – Maureen & Richard Jackson
21 st March	Teaching English in Burma – Victoria Helstrip
28 th March	ANNIVERSARY with Margaret Watson and her Golden Harp

Advance Notice

WWDP Coffee Morning Wed 22nd February 11am. at St. Clements

Conquest Art_Open Afternoon March 20th

This year's Annual General Church meeting on May 7th

God who is found in beauty and brokenness,
holy and righteous one,
whose heart is torn by the suffering of your children,
you long for a world of justice and plenty for all.
Liberate us to share in that freedom offered by your kingdom.
Open our eyes to sense your presence
In places of despair and fear,
open our ears to hear your call to be salt and light in the
world,
melt our hearts, convert our needs to the needs of the other,
and move us to be your people, a people of justice and care,
for our world, for friend and stranger. Amen.

*Andrew Wood, Southampton District Chair.
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Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

In a world that watches as the vulnerable ache, grant us
wisdom.
In a world that stands helplessly as children die, grant us
a profound conscience.
In a world where needs cannot be met or fed or nourished,
grant us righteous anger.
May we take our responsibility to the weak seriously,
may we stand, attentive, by the disadvantaged
and may we feel obligation, as to our own family, to those
who are suffering.
And in our God- expectant hope, may we act justly, love
kindness
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

*Andrea Sheppick, Local Preacher,
Shropshire & Marches Circuit. © Trustees Methodist Church Purposes.*

From the News Sheets

Dec 4th 2016

Dell Joint Unit. Former Unit members are planning a reunion and are keen to contact other ex-members.

Contact via DJUexmembers@gmail.com or alternatively call Nigel on 07956 917635..

Dec 11th 2016

DIY and Auriol Housegroups

We are happy to announce the merging of DIY and Auriol groups. Information published about duties and meetings now applies jointly

Whitechapel Mission. A big THANK YOU to those ladies of the Ewell Court WI who use SMC premises - for their generous, and much appreciated donations of food towards the Mission.

Jan 1st 2017

Diana Pinchin The 6:30pm Communion Service at Ruxley on Sunday 15th January will be led by Mark and Emma, with Stuart Thomas preaching. We are invited to the service by Diana. "You are all invited to the evening service that night when I shall be making first vows to the single consecrated life. Bishop Andrew, Bishop of Guildford will receive my vows. It would be lovely to see you at this service if you are able to make it."

Diana Pinchin

STONE SLEIGH FARE A Seasonal reminiscence

Train users on our local line in the days leading to Christmas might have enjoyed reading the destination indicators on the platforms at Stoneleigh. From Platform 1 you could have travelled to RAYNESDEER Park, VAUX DECK the HALL and London WINTERLOO. Changing trains at WOMBLEDON could have brought you to THREEKINGSton or even TWINKLEHAM. A down train would have called at YULE West and DorKINGS or ELFingham Junction.

Congratulations to the anonymous joker at South West Trains for the mangling of station names. Confused travellers might have been able to consult the timeSTABLE for their journey.

Watch out on 14th February for a repeat of the 2016 Valentine twist of station names, at just the small increase in fares! *Geoff Lawrence*

St Catherine of Alexandria

Last November I visited an exhibition of mediaeval embroidery at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Did you know that in the 14th Century, English embroidery work was renowned? Such

A lot of the work that has survived is in the form of Bishops' copes.

work was given as very expensive gifts between kings and the Pope, bishops and monasteries. The Victoria and Albert Museum had gathered several examples of such embroidery, although with such delicate materials, not much has survived.



A lot of the work that has survived is in the form of Bishops' copes – those semi-circular, heavy-weight cloaks they wear.

As in stained-glass windows they were embroidered with pictures showing the life of Christ and other inspiring episodes. Most of them had three scenes down the back, showing the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, and either side of the bottom-most picture were images of Mary (Jesus' mother) and St Catherine.

she was the daughter of a governor of Alexandria in about 300 AD.

In my ignorance, I came home determined to find out who this Catherine was, and why she was a saint. Of course there are several St.Catherines. However, I suddenly remembered Catherine Wheels. I must have asked my parents when I was young why they are called Catherine wheels, and they told me it was because a St Catherine had died on a wheel.

That narrowed down the search to St Catherine of Alexandria. Briefly, she was the daughter of a governor of Alexandria in about 300AD. She spent a lot of time in study, and was converted after a vision of Virgin and Child. She went to the Roman emperor and rebuked him for persecuting Christians (how brave). He pulled in 50 philosophers to debate with her, and she won all the arguments, and converted several of them (who were immediately put to death).

*Catherine
was thrown
into prison
and
scourged*

Catherine was thrown into prison and scourged, but over 200 people, including the emperor's wife, visited her and were converted – and then were executed.

The emperor tried to marry her, but she refused, saying she lived only for Christ. The emperor was furious and condemned her to death on a spiked wheel, but the wheel broke at her touch, so she was finally beheaded.

There is a secondary tradition which holds that the angels carried her body to Sinai, and it was discovered 500 years later, with hair still growing and healing oil streaming from it, by monks from the nearby monastery.

The monastery was founded on the Sinai peninsula in Egypt (I didn't know Sinai was in Egypt, either) at the purported site of Moses' burning bush. It is now commonly known as St Catherine's Monastery.

Vivienne Ridgway



JUMBLE SALE

**Stoneleigh Methodist Church &
3rd Stoneleigh Scout Group
Refreshments available**

Entrance 50p

Saturday 4th February 12 – 2pm



Epsom and Ewell Foodbank

Results of Feedback Survey 2016

The results of a recent survey show that the Food Bank is not just there to provide food, and that food is not always the most important need.

We now have a furniture store that can provide essentials to people when they are moved into local accommodation, these might be care leavers, those suddenly left without a home, those who move into accommodation from the streets.



*Very welcoming.
Felt loved and not
judged.*

Their needs can be as basic as a bed for their children, a saucepan or kettle to make a hot drink and then of course something to drink from and eat off. Amazingly I have known of people, some with children, placed in accommodation without any of these ordinary necessities and living on boarded or concrete floors because carpet is deemed a luxury.

If you have unwanted furniture, bedding or household goods do let me know. Clothing for those living out or just without the money to buy what's needed is always helpful and especially for pregnant mums who have nothing for the coming baby.



When listening to the people who visit the Food Bank you soon pick up on the worries they have about the benefit changes that are coming into place and we try to have someone on hand that can help with that or at least the right contacts to get that help.



*To be prayed
with helped
enormously.*

The benefit changes are going to be difficult for people who have never managed their money on a monthly basis and they are expecting many more people seeking help with debt, we are very glad that we can refer people to local groups like Christians Against Poverty (CAP,) who specialise in this work on a voluntary basis.

*Tea, biscuits, chocs.
Very helpful.
Smiling, friendly
welcome*

*Turned a very
daunting experience
to something you
could cope with*

*The Food Bank
has been my
saviour. Thank
God for this.*

The Food Bank has run several cooking courses to try and show people how they can make meals that are cheaper and more wholesome and so make their money go further and I believe two more courses will be on offer next year.

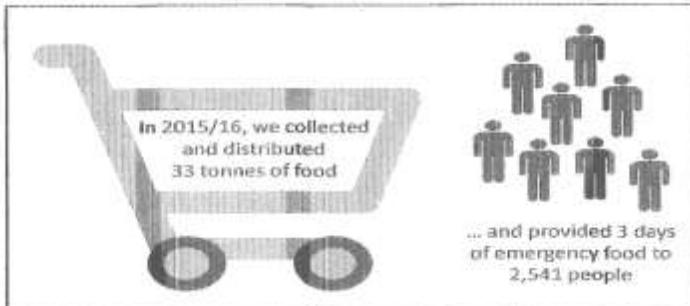
FOOD BANK Apart from this there will be someone who can help with housing advice and they now have a qualified counsellor who will organise confidential appointments.

*The kindness of people
here has helped a huge
amount at difficult times.*

As you can see it is so much more than just a Food Bank, people come for comfort and advice and we try to give them a warm welcome. Along with their bags of food they are also offered prayer which many seem really happy about.

As Tony Miller said in December it's about showing that someone else cares.

Lesley Lee





WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



(INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDENOMINATIONAL)

Am I Being Unfair to You?

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on Friday 3rd March, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan – named locally as 'Yolanda' – struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears. The service focusses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes.

Why not find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service? The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service. The service for this area will be at:

ST CLEMENTS R.C. CHURCH, Kingston Road, Ewell, KT19 0BW

Friday 3rd March, 2pm.

BRING AND BUY and Coffee Morning, in aid of the charities supported by WWDP, will be at St Clements RC Church, Ewell on **Wed 22nd February 11am.**



WOODLAND
TRUST



Tree-planting at Langley Vale.



Pictures by Vivienne! See her article on tree planting!



Icon of Saint Catherine of Alexandria

Portrait of Catherine of Alexandria (National Art Museum of Azerbaijan)



Saint Catherine in a 15th-century fresco on the St. Jacob church in Urtijëi, Italy

These pictures relate to Vivienne's really interesting item inside..