

The Link

Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins
Fd.A; DipHE

Stoneleigh Methodist Church Magazine

June - July 2017



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

BEFORE

Good Friday Service

AFTER



*Pictures by
Emma*



Conquest Art AGM



At our recent AGM the annual Gibson award was given to Sundhar Srinivasan. Sundhar was chosen by three of the Conquest Art Trustees and was a worthy winner. As well as the wooden trophy with his name on it he was given a smaller stained glass artists palette to keep forever. Lesley

I took this photo on a recent visit to Felpham, Susan and Michael, Jan and Alan send their best wishes to all at SMC.
Lesley



Dear Friends,



“For all thy gifts we bless thee Lord. But chiefly for our heavenly food. Thy pardoning grace, thy quickening word, these prompt our song that God is good”. *H&P 363 vs 5 © John Hampden Gurney (1802-62)*

We are experiencing some lovely weather and although it feels like summer season is here, surprisingly it has turned cold and some of us are still wondering whether to pack away our winter clothes or to wait for a little while. Presumably, plans have been made by most of us as to where to spend our summer holidays; it's great and needed and all to the glory of God.

I am looking forward to my summer break and it is good to share how challenging I find the growing spirituality in Ghana whenever I visit. Usually the week I arrive is set aside as “Evangelism Week”. Most of the Church members and even those who are not members rush to the Church for the daily morning devotion which starts from 5am to 6.30am and then in the evenings from 7pm to 9pm. Topics for the week vary and the programme gets advertised widely and well.

I recall not so long ago when the reflections were based on Prevenient Grace, Justifying Grace and Sanctifying Grace – what the Revd. John Wesley thought of God's Grace during his time and whether his thoughts were still relevant today. “God's grace is a wonderful gift to humankind. We do not do anything to ‘earn’ it. Grace is God's love freely offered to us”. John Wesley believed that God provides us with the above mentioned grace. He believed in Prevenient Grace (preparing), Justifying Grace (accepting) and Sanctifying Grace (sustaining).

There was the singing of some good old Methodist Hymns and hearing from the singing the Alto, Tenor, Bass and Soprano voices was incredible.

One of the many hymns I miss singing is “Rescue the perishing, care for the dying. Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen. Tell them of Jesus, the

mighty to save. (Chorus) *Rescue the perishing, care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save*". © Frances van Alstyne, 1820-1915 (MHB 338)

The Evangelism Week attracted attendance of about 250 during the early morning devotions, 800 in the evening services and over 2,500 for the Sunday morning first service which ran from 7am – 8.30am and second service from 9am – 12noon.

It was inspirational, humbling, challenging and heaps to learn. I pray that we can openly express our hunger for spiritual nourishment and reach out unreservedly in faith and love.

Peace be with you, *Revd Emma*

SMC Film Club.

Watch out for publicity for our next evening –Everyone is welcome, and feel free to bring a friend
Vivienne Ridgway



Steward's Notes

Over the last weeks we have had the Lent course with Emma and Mark Borley.

Tony Loft led a memorable service on 2nd April, followed by Palm Sunday with Holy Communion. Emma gave us a moving Good Friday service with most people taking a physical part in remembering how our Lord was shamed, tortured, defiled and put to death. It was a simple service but very moving. David Eagle led our Easter service

Today I attended Knit and Natter and was one of ten. Sometimes there are only one or two people in attendance. It is lovely to have the companionship of those attending and the nattering covers all manner of subjects. We were discussing the ACM, that we did have a new steward, but it would have been good to replace both Stewards who were leaving, (anyone want to help out?). The sun

was shining and the containers in the courtyard had been filled with plants all looking very pretty and healthy adding to the joy of a sunny day. It makes you feel life is worth living when the sun shines and you are with people whose company you enjoy. It gives you even more reason to praise the Lord and thank him for all that he provides.

This is the last of the notes I will write as a steward at SMC. It has been a rewarding job with lots of busy and quiet times. We all have jobs that we do within our stewarding and hope that we manage to keep all the balls in the air and don't drop them too often. One of those jobs is arranging various services.

Two weeks ago we had our 'Songs of Praise'; members gave us many great hymns to choose from. The hymnal was used to good effect and all those who introduced their hymn had researched it and gave us extra information about the author, and why they wrote the hymn. Richard played the guitar to his choice of hymn. Eileen chose 'O Lord our God' and reminded us about the beauty around us, such as the sun rising over Mt Everest. For her this added to the evidence of there being a God. To finish we sang 'God is our strength and refuge', chosen by Geoff and sung to the Dambusters' March. No one seemed to mind that the service over-ran by 10 minutes.

Our ACM followed a service with Holy Communion, and there was some lively discussion with everybody being able to give their 2 penn'orth. Giving just a short version of our reports worked well. We did run over somewhat but not by too much. Everyone helped as they could and business soon gave way to a lovely meal with the hot course provided by Vivienne and desserts by everyone else. Again faith had brought us together and faith had given us a great meal. The companionship at SMC was demonstrated during the meeting and the meal. I have enjoyed being a Steward, but will also enjoy SMC now that I have stepped down, (but finishing at the end of August).

Draper

Catherine

Thanks to all the Stewards, Past and Present for all they do. ed

One Sunday in May, Gloria was showing us a photo taken at her son's wedding vows renewal at SMC. She pointed out her son's father-in-law, DS Tony Nott, MBE and told us some of his story which is soon to be released in book form. The following is an abridgement of an article about his work.

Vivienne Ridgway

Detective Superintendent Tony Nott MBE

Some people are born to make a difference. Because of Tony Nott people have not been murdered, women have not been raped and children have been protected from abuse. When those terrible crimes have occurred he has led the teams which have arrested killers, hunted down attackers and returned to the grieving the bodies of their loved ones.

His career began in his native Devon and moved swiftly to the Metropolitan force before swinging westwards again, when he joined Dorset Constabulary in 1976.

"I was brought up by nuns and priests who knocked me all over the place, but it was drummed into me that we have to love one another and the only way I could fulfil my Christian duty was to serve the public," he declares. He insists his success is down to Judith's support, especially during the abroad years and was delighted to take her to Buckingham Palace for the MBE ceremony. "I was overwhelmed with pride" he says.

As the consummate copper -"Britain has the best police in the world and Dorset is one of the top British forces," he says.....

.....after retiring from the Dorset force [he elected to work in Kosovo].

"Like everybody else we were watching television in the 1990's and saw the horrendous bombing of Sarajevo. Like most people we were outraged at the lack of action and the murders," he says. "I wanted to go out there on a food convoy but couldn't because I got stuck doing a political conference. Then the opportunity came up in 2000 to help with the exhumations, so I took it."

He led the British forensic team for two months.....

“The cadaver would be photographed in situ, bagged in the grave and the ever-watchful relatives were given the opportunity to bear it to the Royal Marines’ lorry. “It was so they felt a part of what was going on,” he says. “We almost encouraged it, in a way.”

Since then, Tony has worked in Iraq, Palestine, and Bosnia.....

Tony remembers all his cases [particularly the difficult convictions]

He is equally happy, however, to have been able to prove innocence. “I’m very pleased to put bad people in prison but I’m equally pleased that I’ve been able to investigate traumatic incidents and by producing all the facts, show no one was criminally liable,” Tony says, “it’s the pursuit of the truth which is the most important thing we do.”

Tony’s drive comes from two things, he says: his Christian faith and his family, in particular, his beloved wife Judith.

Fellowship Anniversary

Hi All

Just to let you know that Margaret was sadly involved in an accident on her way to us today. A lorry rammed her up the back and she was taken to A&E. She is home now but badly bruised and obviously very shaken up. I do not know the condition of her harp! She will give me a ring once she has recovered and I have emailed to say she is in our thoughts and prayers and have arranged for flowers to be sent. I have informed Ruxley of her accident. Please do remember her in your prayers. Thank you all for your support this afternoon. *Pat*



As I arrived at Fellowship on 28th March I spotted both Tom and Colin driving away. I discovered that our special guest (Margaret Watson) had failed to arrive, so they had both gone to their homes to gather various items with which to entertain us, and very successfully too. Subsequently we learned she had been involved in a Road Traffic Accident.

Badly shaken, - but the Harp was alright! *Helen*

*The Lord will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a
sun-scorched land and will
strengthen your frame. You will
be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters
never fail.
Isaiah 58: 11*

**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
10th July 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

4 th June	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY / Holy communion	Revd. Dr. Stan Brown Revd. Emma Aikins
11 th June	PARADE SERVICE	Revd. Emma Aikins
18 th June	Methodist Homes Sunday	David Eagle
25 th June	Memorial Service	Brenda Cannon
2 nd July	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma Aikins
9 th July	Action for Children Sunday	Viv Newitt
16 th July	Morning Worship	Arigon Sinani
23 rd July	Morning Worship	Tony Loft
30 th July	Morning Worship	Valerie Ashcroft

Rota Duties

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
4 th June	Denise/Val	Hazel/David	Robin
11 th June	Marion/Ernie	Norma A/Jeananne	Robin
18 th June	Catherine/Debbie	Christine/Ruth	Pat/Colin
25 th June	Marion/Ernie	Norma A/Vivienne	Ken
2 nd July	Denise/Val	Brenda/Ken	Robin
9 th July	Denise/Debbie	Pat S/Peter	Norma J
16 th July	Val/Denise	Doris/Jeff	Robin
23 rd July	Denise/Debbie	Norma A/Vivienne	Ken
30 th July	Marion/Ernie	Doris/Jeff	Denise

Tuesday Fellowship

6 th June	Angus Drummond
13 th June	"My childhood in Australia" – Anne Cockram
20 th June	Revd. Emma Aikins
27 th June	"The Wreck of the Titanic" – Rupert Matthews
4 th July	Revd. Sue Ayling from St. Mary's, Ewell
11 th July	Peter Poole
18 th July	Parkinson's Society – Amanda Shephard
25 th July	Strawberry Tea at Barbara Airey's
Summer Break until 5th September	

Release International
and Christian Solidarity Worldwide



My brother is doing an epic cycle ride next month to support these charities. From May 17th until June 17th he and a couple of friends are going to ride from Cape Wrath on the North Coast of Scotland to Peacehaven on the South Coast. They are raising money for Release International (www.releaseinternational.org) who provide relief for the church worldwide wherever they are suffering persecution, and also for Christian Solidarity Worldwide (www.csw.org.uk) who provide support, advice and advocacy for persecuted minorities everywhere. They will be stopping in local churches each night, and calling them to pray with us for the wider church where they are suffering. They will be at Cheam Baptist Church on Tuesday 13th June, at 7.30pm, if anyone would like to go and find out more.

Vivienne Ridgway



At last an explanation:

Ever walk into a room with some purpose in mind, only to completely forget what that purpose was? Turns out, doors themselves are to blame for these strange memory lapses.

Psychologists at the University of Notre Dame have discovered that passing through a doorway triggers what's known as an event boundary in the mind, separating one set of thoughts and memories from the next. Your brain files away the thoughts you had in the previous room and prepares a blank slate for the new locale.

It's not aging, it's the door!

Whew, Thank Goodness for studies like this!

Where There's A Will –

In memory of William Williams

Some of you may remember me speaking about a young American man called William, who was brought into the same hospital ward where Colin was in a coma in New York. He had been found by his father having taken an accidental heroin overdose, when the hospital where he tried to get treatment refused to allow him inpatient detox because his medical insurance did not cover this. Very sadly, despite the care and expertise of the St. Luke's emergency staff, who were prepared to admit him regardless of any insurance, he died some six weeks later.

When I was introduced to the family initially, I asked if I could pray for them and William and I have remained in contact with them since that traumatic time in November 2010. William's father, Bill, and mother, Margot, (and sister, Elizabeth) began a campaign in William's name to get proper, emergency treatment for drug addicts regardless of their medical insurance status and this is still continuing in the charity entitled "Where There's A Will". I am attaching an article that Bill has just had published in the April 2017 edition of *The Episcopal New Yorker*, which I think gives enormous food for thought for all of us on both sides of the Atlantic. Bill has given me his permission to publish this in full. It is a long article but I think very special.

Pat Petley

The prayer below ends Bill's Article – we thought it worth repeating

Dear God, We give thee thanks for all those who tend to the sick.

We thank thee for those who heal.

We thank thee for those who nurse.

We thank thee for those who counsel.

We thank thee for those who pray.

Inspire their minds when they seek new answers,

Firm their hands when their strength falters,

Lift up their hearts when hope seems faint,

Hear their prayers when they call to you.

Grant that in their time of need they may receive as generously as they give, remembering always that through their time, their talent, and their tenderness do we see your love. Amen

This article is published by *Bill Williams Theatre Director, Teacher, Advocate and Speaker on Addiction. New York 2017. with permission.*

Follow the link at bit.ly/smclinkjun17

We include the opening paragraphs of Bill's interesting article

For Those Who Tend the Sick..... Bill Williams



It's easy for me to think of prayer as a request for guidance or help or perhaps prayer offered as thanks. I speak as one who does not exercise prayer in my day-to-day life, indeed as one who questions the power of prayer. When I was a boy my godmother gave me a plaque, Albrecht Durer's "Praying Hands". I still have it. Though it has been safely stored out of sight for decades now, I've not forgotten it.

Four years ago our son and brother, William, suffered an accidental heroin overdose. That was followed by six weeks of hospitalization, either heavily sedated or comatose, before it was clear he would never recover.

We arranged organ donation (indeed were even with him in the operating room, watching as the tube that supported his breathing was removed). Unfortunately, once removed from life support, he did not expire within the short time frame necessary to harvest serviceable organs. Rather he lasted another 21 hours before he died in our arms. Determined that his death not be in vain we donated his body to Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. To a person, the doctors that we asked about doing so commented on how important anatomy class was in their own development as physicians. The head of the program that "accepted" William (Getting a deceased 24-year-old into medical school, even as a cadaver, isn't as easy as you might think.) was emphatic that an anatomical donation could ultimately be even more important than an organ donation. Our donation was balm and comfort, as well as encouragement to follow my son when the time comes.

Lord of all generations
We pray for our young people,
surrounded by conflicting voices,
and challenging choices;
guide those who teach,
direct and support them
and give them wisdom Lord.

We pray for those stressed by work
and those unable to find employment;
give them stamina to keep going,
and trust in your good purposes.
Guard and guide them , Lord.

We pray for our elderly,
coping with increasing frailty,
adjusting to loss and change,
facing an uncertain future;
comfort them with your presence
and your unfailing love.

Lord who made us,
and keeps us throughout our lives,
in your unchanging care;
send us ,in your strength,
to those who need our help. *Amen.*

Hilary Creed, Trinity Bromley URC ©Methodist Church Purposes.

Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

God of compassion, free me from what is holding me back.
Help me to let go of the hurts I cling to.
In my freedom give me direction,
in my sharing give me courage,
in my journeying give me hope.
And through it all, may your kingdom come. *Amen.*

*Paul Wood, Ministry Development Coordinator,
Connexional Team. © Methodist Church Purposes.*

Conquest Art Stoneleigh's **open afternoon.**



On March 20th Stoneleigh opened its doors and invited friends in to see the work of our artists, we had an excellent exhibition with many bright and varied works of art on display. Several Members and visitors enjoyed trying out our latest purchase, the equipment needed to produce Encaustic Art, a wonderful new way of creating pictures with wax. Members of the group are delighted with the creative surprises they have produced. Excellent refreshments were served and it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Sadly we have lost two old friends this year, Richard Airey and Arthur Miller, but happily we have found two new Members, Margaret and Tony, who have joined us; you can't replace old friends but it's lovely to make new ones. *Lesley, Jeananne, Kate, Chris and Elaine.*

Conquest Art AGM.

At our recent AGM the annual Gibson award was given to Sundhar Srinivasan. The award is given for progress in their work and for the difference their art has made for them personally. Sundhar was chosen by three of the Conquest Art Trustees and was a worthy winner. As well as the wooden trophy with his name on it he was given a smaller stained glass artists palette to keep forever.

Good Friday Service

I have made several attempts to describe the service Emma led us through. It was so special; I find that my words don't work for me.

The photograph (*by Emma*) displays the result of individuals placing significant objects* on a beautiful purple cloth.

I find I cannot convey the solemnity and beauty of the service. Thank you Emma for leading us through such a meaningful and Holy time. *Helen*

**a white sheet and a sword in a scabbard; Feathers; a bowl of water and a towel; A six inch nail and a hammer; a notice marked 'the King of the Jews' and another piece of wood on which to fasten it; and a length of cloth.*

Conquest Art open afternoon on March 20th

Happy times spent
looking at work done and
sharing in a refreshing
Cuppa



Here's one I made earlier!

Time for another cup, I thin

Pictures by Lesley



HOPE

in our villages, towns & cities

BOURNE HALL
GARDENS
KT17 1UF

Free Family Fun For ALL Ages

Music and
Entertainment

Sunday 25th June
2-5pm

Bouncy Castle - Pamper & Well-being Zone -
Tea Tent - Crafts And Games



HOPE - Central Hill Ewell & Parish Area



A big thank you to all those involved for the thought and the hard work involved in the planting.
Pat Petley

What a lovely surprise to walk into the courtyard and see the tubs and planter, which have been planted up by the Cubs and Scouts, so full of colour this morning.

