

The Link

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Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins
Fd.A; DipHE

Stoneleigh Methodist Church Magazine

October/November 2017



Carole and Phil Thomas now attend the ancient church of St Thomas the Martyr which is just beside the medieval Monnow Bridge in Overmonnow, The church is known to have been in use in 1186 (information/picture by Lesley)

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www.stoneleighmethodist.church



This summer, Emma, Bill and Nana visited Ghana and the school Emma supports. These are some of the photos of their trip.



Bill was the first "White person" to set foot in the church since it was opened ten years ago



This is a very needy village school with a very old and weak structure.



Bill wasn't very impressed with the untarred side roads with lots of pot holes.

Dear Friends,

Over the summer it was good to reflect and take stock of ministry over the first year that I have been around. Prayerfully, I gave thanks for all that is happening and asked God's grace to see us through this year.

I was looking forward to going on holiday in Ghana; catch up with friends, family and to visit the few charitable projects I've been involved. I would like to thank the Tuesday fellowship for their donation of £100 to support the Sudbury School in Ghana and also the donation of £250 from the Church in support of the same school. The School's administrative/PTA have written a letter of gratitude which is posted on the notice board to read.

This is a very needy school with very old and weak structure in the village. In the coming weeks I will leave a comprehensive information about the school and hopefully we may prayerfully be led by the spirit in finding ways of



supporting this school. I have encouraged the school to consider creating a website which would enable us to follow what they do.

The school tries very hard with fundraising activities for the purpose of renovating the school building to meet local authority's expectation. Unfortunately whilst I was in Ghana a cracked wall gave way which caused the collapse of three classrooms.

Church Service: I always worship at **Emmanuel Methodist Church** when in Ghana and it's ten minutes' walk from my house. Service starts from 8am with a bible study for an hour and then the main service will begin from 9am and finish at about 12ish – all aspects are led speaking the local dialect. Bill was brave to attend the last Sunday of our holiday setting a record of being the first "White person" to set foot in the church since it was opened ten years ago.

I also took copies of the old Methodist Hymn books (Red Cover) to give to the church as it's still being used in Ghana and the congregation were very pleased, especially the choir.

Family Experience – As it was Bill's first time travelling to Ghana without knowing what to expect, he did enjoy the holiday but felt lost whenever he didn't understand what was being said when I spoke with the locals in our native language.

He also wasn't very impressed with the untarred side roads with lots of pot holes.

Bill made some friends, stunned to hear the younger ones call him grandpa; he enjoyed our trip to Cape Coast where we visited one of the oldest castles in Ghana which was built during the era when Ghana was a British Colony then known as the Gold Coast.

It's good to be back to continue with the work of God and to know that His Spirit is with us. As we begin a New Church Year I pray that we will continue to stay focussed, seek the face of the Lord and rely on the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

*“Glory to the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life;
by whom we are born into the family of God and
made members of the body of Christ; whose witness
confirms us; whose wisdom teaches us; whose
power enables us; who will do for us more than we
can ask or think ... **blessed be God forever.**” Amen*

© MWB page 283

Every Blessing,

Revd Emma Aikins (Minister)

Smalls for All:

Denise Gould has started to donate to this Scottish charity, which deliver to Africa. They would like

- New pants for children 3-15,
- New pants for ladies size 8-16
- New or lightly worn bras.



Any donations to Denise please, which she will pass on, unless you wish to contact them directly.

Whitechapel: Don't forget our ongoing support for Whitechapel. Clothes, shoes, toiletries (especially toothbrushes and razors) and food are all welcome.

Food Bank: As well as food, they also have need of tin-openers, small thermos flasks, and disposable bowls.

Steward's Notes

It seems that there is no escape for ex-stewards!

During the last couple of months we have had interesting and varied services with many different leaders, including a Local Arrangement.

During July we had Viv Newitt and Arigon Sinani, both relative newcomers to preaching in the circuit and they gave us lovely services. Viv gave a service including Action for Children. Valerie Ashcroft returned from her 'sabbatical' to lead a service in late July in her inimitable way. Valerie had been Chair of the Oddfellows Friendly Society during the last year, which didn't give her enough time for her usual preaching duties.

Tony Loft also visited us at the end of July and we look forward to seeing him at the end of September.



Our church had a quiet August, without the usual extra activities, although we have had a lot of maintenance and decorating done and the clean carpets have left the Link room and the church looking brighter. August seems to have rushed past. One minute Emma was leading her last service before her holiday and the next she was back looking very relaxed, but still bringing interesting ideas for members' involvement in services and the life of the church.

Rev'd Chris Morley preached to us in his gentle voice, during the service he asked for names of those he could pray for, making those prayers special and particular to us all.

Barbara Airey had afternoon tea during the summer break, for all those who missed the Fellowship meetings plus others. It was a lovely afternoon.

Our own David Eagle has led two services recently, in both of which hymns were used as prayers and for singing, adding to the interest and enjoyment of the services; on the 20th August he talked to us on 'Some thoughts about the importance of Grace'.

In the Local Arrangement Sunday service, Lesley Lee used the talents available within our own church community; the music included Richard on guitar, Joan Tolley



reading from the pews and Tom giving us the benefit from his long teaching career.

We had church cleaning so that the church was open for those doing Ride & Stride, no one turned up! But two Striders signed later in the day.

During the summer Geoff Lawrence moved to Carshalton and we are pleased that he still attends SMC.

We have had a relatively quiet time but as I stood down as Steward at the end of August it is a surprise to be writing the Stewards' Notes. Wishing you all a good start to the Methodist New Year.

Catherine Draper

PS. We have lost our Communion cup - have you seen it? Earlier in the year we found that our silver chalice had disappeared, no one owned up to borrowing it, but we would love to know its history and what it is made of, for insurance purposes if nothing else. If you have any knowledge of it please contact us.

From the Local Arrangement Service on 27th August.

Jeananne was unwell that day, and was unable to take part. This is what she intended to say at the service.

The reading was Isaiah 51 v 1 – 4

Isaiah is a mini bible on its own, full of wisdom, poetry and vision. A story of beginnings, a self-help manual to all of us who struggle to be faithful to our calling, to be proud of what God has done for us through Christ.

Isaiah speaks of calling, forgiveness and always looks forward to Christ coming again. Just as I saw on a bus the other day "I will return!" Jesus.com. My sister Dee, a Jew living in Israel, says we should be calling out that this is a Christian country and asks what are we going to do as individuals to reinforce that! That is the message for us to ponder over. Our vision does not have to be as big as Isaiah and maybe our faith has been in exile. The Israelites felt overwhelmed by their situation in exile, but forgot the cornerstone, the grounding of their faith, and they wavered. Christianity must not waver, we must uphold it as we look forward to a new church year with Emma, and all who work and support her.

Jeananne Holtorp

Synod 2017

Jeananne Holtorp attended the London District Synod in September. The theme of the meeting was the launch of "Moving Stories". The following is her report.

I had a wonderful day starting off with fantastic opening worship. It was like being on one of the shows for showbiz hopefuls! It was led by a young handsome guy who played great keyboard and had a great singing voice. He was really exciting and so gifted I kept thinking, "Wow! The music must be great in his church!".

Then came the Bible reading, Ruth ch 1 v: 6-18, the story of Ruth choosing to stay alongside Naomi her mother in law.

Jonathon who led it started off by saying he was a bit of a geek always wanting to know the root of a word, and found out that was how we had the word ruthless! [*'ruth' means 'pity or 'compassion'*]

Jonathan asked what it means to be Jewish. Was it blood or righteousness? He spoke about moving; the reality of that and the pathos of each situation. He brought in 'Brexit Limbo', and hoped the District theme of 'Moving Stories' meant that we, as a District and as individual churches, could be looking at the positives in people moving and coming here, and he finished by suggesting we might be more Ruthful, than Ruthless.

Then we were asked "God is Good?", and we replied a few times "All the time!"

Next Michaela Youngson introduced the 'Moving Stories' launch telling us that Applegarth Arts had been commissioned to go around the District getting people to record their stories of where they came from, what had happened to them etc.

Wanting to know how churches are responding to this, how are they finding ways to feedback positive things about migration to the Connexion and to leaders in councils etc.

There followed a conversation between Michaela and The Rev Jennifer Potter who is now based at Wesley's Chapel. Jennifer said

that back in Old Testament times moving and migration were part of life, and she also said that if we all had our DNA checked we might be shocked to see our journey through time. She described herself as a serial Migrator both internally in this country and abroad in various countries in Africa. What she had learnt was that she had to develop acute listening and understanding skills, and to listen and understand the context of the situation, not to make assumptions. She felt we all had multiple identities especially the people visiting Whitechapel from so many countries. They felt a sense of belonging there, a root to ground them. 20% of Methodists live in London and we should be a catalyst for change. We should enhance lives and move more swiftly and be more quick footed. The church should be an interpreter between the generations, help people get status recognition, and help to avoid exploitation.

Then followed another conversation. It's the Central Hall way! This was between Alice Waterhouse, a chaplain at Wandsworth Prison and another guy whose name I did not catch but who worked alongside Alice.



They spoke about all the different nationalities in the prison, (over 400 Eastern Europeans) all the differing criminals, the traffickers, and those that have been trafficked. He explained how they had a befriending service and volunteering support groups to help people both in prison and when they left.

He told us about two men from Eritrea who had been befriended and who were under terrible pressure within the system. Unfortunately one man committed suicide but one was recognised by his befriender as being very bright and is now studying at Goldsmiths College!

We then had a short video where one of the Chairs was talking to Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal, one of the previous Presidents of Conference, on migration. He described how his parents fled from India to Kenya, then on to Tanzania and finally to England. He spoke so movingly and was so committed to seeing the benefits that migration brings. In his time

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as president he visited every Detention Centre to see how things worked and tried to bring about changes to make the system work better. He said so much but I cannot repeat it all. He has set up a website 'City of Sanctuary' as both animals and people need safe havens of sanctuary, and that is where we as churches could be involved. We must challenge the false conception that there are queues of people waiting to come here. Only 1% of all refugees apply to come here, to put it in context we have 50 billion tourists every year.

He urged that we should celebrate the gifts refugees and migrants bring to this country and have encounters sharing food and conversations just as Jesus did, so that we dispel prejudice by getting involved in each other's projects etc

Our churches should be the safest place for people and he reminded us that God was a migrant continually moving over the earth, and at Harvest Festivals to remember that the corn in Egypt at the time of the famine was the start of a huge migration, a real story of movement.



There was the usual discussion group around our round tables, a video of the best bits from Conference, which looked good, and I will definitely go when it is held in London. Then a presentation of certificates to those that had undergone The London Lay Ministry Course (over 20 people there!) plus all the usual business that has to be undertaken. We finished off by celebrating Communion together.

Michaela gave a very evocative sermon, and it was a blessed time of sharing communion around our tables together.

All in all a very good day.

NB Applecarts Arts www.applecartsarts.com is an organisation based in Upton Park, who specialise in storytelling.

Contacts.



Minister

Rev. Emma Aikins
Fd.A; DipHE

Stewards

Marion Baker

Debbie Woolford

Val Farley

Ernie Baker

Lesley Lee



Leadership Team

The Minister;
Marion and Ernie Baker
(Stewards' Rep)

Lesley Lee
(Pastoral Rep);
Jeananne Holtorp
(Church Member)

Allison Harris
(Church Member)

Denise Gould
(Property Rep);



Church Council Secretary

Denise Gould

Pastoral Concerns

Lesley Lee

JMA Secretary

Catherine Draper

Bookings

Denise Gould
020 8393 2155

*Lord, thank you for
hearing my cry. Thank
you that there is no place
too deep for you to reach down
and grant me your presence
and your assurance
Prayer by Stephen Rand p24
New Daylight Sept – Dec 2017*

**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 Nov. 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

1 st October	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma Aikins
8 th October	Harvest Festival Parade Service JMA Awards	Revd. Emma Aikins
15 th October	Morning Worship	Viv Newitt
22 nd October	Morning Worship	Richard Graham
29 th October	Baptisms	Revd. Emma Aikins
5 th November	Holy Communion	Revd. Chris Morley
12 th November	REMEMBRANCE PARADE SERVICE	Revd. Emma Aikins
19 th November	Morning Worship	David Eagle
26 th November	Morning Worship	Revd. Emma Aikins

Rota Duties

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
1 st October	Lesley/Denise	Ruth/Christine	Ken
8 th October	Marion/Ernie	Brenda/Ken	Robin
15 th October	Denise/Debbie	Doris/Jeff	Norma J
22 nd October	Catherine/Denise	Jeananne/Geoff	Ken
29 th October	Denise/Debbie	Ruth/Christine	Robin
5 th November	Marion/Ernie	Brenda/Ken	Tom
12 th November	Lesley/Val	Norma A/Jeananne	Pat/Colin
19 th November	Marion/Ernie	Doris/Jeff	Denise
26 th November	Val/Lesley	Ruth/Christine	Ken

Tuesday Fellowship

3 rd October	Joan Tolley – My Childhood
10 th October	Nightingale Singers entertain
17 th October	Peter Thompson, Barrister – “When I was at the Bar”
24 th October	Catherine Draper – A visit to Prague
31 st October	Pat Petley & Jean Porter with a Favourite Songs Singalong
7 th November	Revd. Carol Rowles from Christchurch with St. Philip
14 th November	Colin Petley – A look into the past
21 st November	Revd. Emma Aikins
28 th November	Georgia Dessborough from The Stroke Association

Gracious God, may Christ be my light though all else fails,
Christ be my hope when doubt is strong,
Christ be my peace when pain is real,
Christ be my love when anger burns,
Christ be my strength when praise is weak,
Christ be the glory when honour is given,
Christ be praised when the kingdom comes,
Christ be the purpose of all our deeds,
Christ be the welcome we give to the stranger,
Christ be the object of our seeking and learning,
Christ be the word on our mouths
at the dawn and close of day. Amen.

Stephen Lindridge, Newcastle Chair.
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Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

Warm, loving Spirit of God;
open our ears, that we may listen in order to
understand,
not simply to reply;
open our minds, that we may receive new insights
into the nature of your love;
and open our hearts, that we may share generously
the gifts of your grace.
Thus will we truly be disciples of Jesus Christ
and know the truth,
the truth that will set us free. Amen.

Sheryl Anderson, Liverpool .

(As a matter of interest, Sheryl was a Local Preacher
in our Circuit some years ago.)

RELOCATION: 57 VARIETIES

By the time this gets into print I shall have been in my new abode for about three months. This area of Carshalton has traditionally been known as The Wrythe, rithe being Olde English for a stream. The stream here (about the width of the Hogsmill in Ewell) flows out of the large twin ponds at the start of Carshalton High Street in the shadow of the near-cathedral proportions of All Saints Parish Church. The clear-flowing water through Grove Park becomes a tributary of the Wandle on its way to Morden Hall Park NT, eventually reaching the Thames at Wand(le)sworth.

In the week following my arrival a new World War 1 memorial was dedicated on the nearby Wrythe Green in memory of over fifty young men who responded to the call to serve and never returned home. The Wrythe at that time was a village in a mainly farming community and still retains a village-like appearance with a single street of small useful shops facing across to the tree-lined Green that is intersected by hard paths for walkers.

My flat is part of a new retirement development comprising 57 one and two-bedroom well-designed and equipped apartments.

Carshalton Station, a short walk away, is served by Southern trains on the direct route from Victoria to Sutton and Epsom, and by Thameslink trains on the Wimbledon/Sutton loop to and from the City, St Pancras International and beyond.



Four separate bus routes also serve this area with frequent links to Sutton, Wallington, Croydon, Purley, Morden, Cheam and Worcester Park.

As I write a removal van has brought the belongings of another resident whom I hope to meet soon, bringing the total to double figures and with signs of the new community of pensioners developing.

Bus 151 from Worcester Park to Wrythe Green, walk forward to the mini-roundabout, cross (with care) to North St with the College on your left, then Denmark Road is second left. No visitor car parking on the Lodge site but there are often spaces available in the road outside.....*Geoff*

A Trip down the River Wey from Pyrford Lock – Gloria Davis

On this last August Bank Holiday Monday we decided, as a family, to take a trip on our narrow boat, The Rompols. The weather was perfect as we walked down the towpath towards the boat on this beautiful day and we came across a number of molehills. Our purpose for this trip was



to teach Amber, our eldest granddaughter, to handle the boat through the locks, as well as learning about the wild life she would see. The boat was facing towards Godalming and we were going to go through two locks and then have lunch at a riverside pub. As boats on the river are encouraged to go at a slower pace this gave us the chance to note the wild life we saw.

As we chugged along, we saw reed mace, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and reeds in large numbers, with plenty of willow and alder trees. In the water there were small fish in places and, on the surface, water boatmen, pond skaters, dragon flies and beautiful damsel and banded demoiselle flies in vivid blues and green dancing on the water.



Amber learned quickly how to manage the locks and was ready for her lunch on our arrival at the pub. After lunch, our son turned the boat around in the basin just beyond the pub and we slowly chugged back to the mooring point, arriving as dusk was falling, having enjoyed a lovely day together.

Gloria

Brecon Beacons with the Lees

During the summer we went camping in the Brecon Beacons and despite a mix of some rather damp (torrential rain) weather we had some glorious days and saw much of the wonderful countryside. We were also able to visit Phil and Carole Thomas who send their best wishes to all at Stoneleigh. Following the closure of the little chapel near their home, Carole and Phil now attend the ancient church of St Thomas the Martyr which is just beside the medieval Monnow Bridge in Overmonnow, Monmouth. The church is known to have been in use in 1186 and has a lovely interior with a 12th century chancel. The day following our visit the church was opening a new community hall, the hard work of many willing hands. *Lesley.*

and from the Farleys on tour...



Many know John & I spend lots of the summer in our touring caravan. We are very eco-friendly. The lights and TV are all run by our battery which is powered by the solar panel on the roof. Hot

water, fridge, heater, & cooker all run on gas and sites supply a cold water tap, and an Elsan point (to empty the loo). Late in the season we go to sites that provide electricity.

This summer we've visited Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Berkshire and Nottinghamshire. We've camped near the Thames in Henley when we celebrated 65 years with our camping group and again for the music festival which is held the week after the regatta. We were in Abingdon right on the Thames again helping run a holiday meet, (2 adults & 2 children £10 per night) We had about 250 units passing through. Many stay for 3 weeks, some in motorhomes for 3 to 4 days. Some came from France, Spain, Holland, and other such countries. We also enjoyed lovely walks by the river.

We've been to some sites this year where John can go fishing and we visited The National Memorial Arboretum; at the last bank holiday we met with 300 + units with a Wild West theme. We had a grocery store in our awning. I looked out things from the past from the backs of cupboards

On our travels, we meet people from all over the country and beyond. At the Bank Holiday weekend on the Sunday we had a joint service in the Marquee, where everyone could worship together.

We'll be home and away until the end of October. *Val Farley*

Ntungungwe School.

Over the last few years, we have been very privileged to help the children at Ntungungwe school, both in their learning and with their hunger. Martine has sent us the latest newsletter and photos, which is abridged here. Catherine Draper has the full version, should you want to read it.

Monday 31st July 2017

Dear friends of Ntungungwe School,

The shortest day of the year was in June and right now we look forward to the days lengthening in the southern hemisphere. We had an amazing rainy season earlier in the year and so we have been blessed with full dams and rivers.

The term has been very busy so far with netball and soccer matches against other schools in the district and of course our senior class, the grade 7s, are hard at work preparing for the national exams which start in early October.....



Last Thursday the grade 7 class came on a farm visit. They started with the dairy, then the chicken project and vegetable farm next door. They then came on to our farm for a lesson in cattle handling and vaccinations....

We are hoping to extend our newest classroom with another classroom on the back of it. We are extremely grateful to Rev. Dr. Martine Stemerick and her hardworking generous band of congregants who make these developments possible.

... our Parents' Association Chairman, Mr Nkomo lost his wife after a long and painful illness. Mr Nkomo is devastated and he now has 3 children to bring up on his own although his sister is very supportive. He has since been injured in an incident with a cart. We offer him our condolences and hope things will improve for him and next term he will be able to be back to his hard working self.

Thank you to you all for your interest, compassion and generosity. Your help in a very difficult time in Zimbabwe's history makes it so much better for every single pupil in the school.

Sincerely, *The pupils and staff and the Ntungungwe community
& Gillian Dudman*

Strawberry Tea with Tuesday Fellowship – Ken Marshall



Traditionally, our last Fellowship event before the summer break has been the Strawberry Tea, usually held in Barbara Airey's garden. This year the date for the event fell on 25th July, and in the few days before this the weather had been very unsettled which had caused quite a bit of concern as to whether

having the event out of doors was going to be feasible. However, on the day itself, the weather changed very much for the better, and we were able to enjoy a wonderfully sunny and warm afternoon, sitting in Barbara's lovely garden in full bloom. We ate our strawberries and cream, followed by homemade scones, and of course a cup of tea, and we shared lots of conversation and fellowship.

All of which contributed to a very successful occasion and all those who took part in organising the event both beforehand and on the day earned a very big "Thank You", as did Barbara for providing such a lovely setting.

As is usual, there were some of Barbara's plants for sale and we took a collection for Barbara's charity, Chase Children's Hospice, all of which totalled about £90.



By the time you read this, Tuesday Fellowship will have begun again after the summer break and we are always happy to welcome new members, whether church members or not. Do come along – Tuesday afternoons from 2:30-4:00 with a different speaker/ activity/ performer each week – you will receive a warm welcome and, of course, tea and biscuits!! (please see the full programme in the centre of The Link) Pat Petley

From the News Sheets

August 13th

Geoff Lawrence—due to circumstances beyond Geoff's control, his new telephone number is no longer as previously advertised. His (latest) new number is 020 8669 1321 which he has been assured is permanent.

August 20th

Martine—there has been an exchange of emails between Martine and Geoff. At his request the words and pictures are displayed in Church today for the congregation to browse.

August 27th

Conquest Art Exhibition at Bourne Hall during their opening hours, 5th-16th September 2017. This is a National exhibition and Stoneleigh will be contributing. We hope that you will come along and see the work our members have done and perhaps find out more about us. Come along to Bourne Hall during normal opening hours and have a chat, we look forward to seeing you.

September 3^d

In our thoughts and prayers we include Martine's mother and brother in Houston among all those suffering from the effects of the disastrous flooding at this time.

We are sorry to announce that our friend and Circuit Treasurer **Kathy Ward** has died. The funeral Service will take place on Thursday 7th September, 11:20am, at the North East Surrey Crematorium, Lower Morden Lane, Morden SM4 4NU.

Jean Hensman (Ewell United Reformed Church), who is known to many, has undergone surgery for a broken hip. At present that is all we know but we felt that her friends should have the news. *Lesley*

Thanks to Tom for filling the pots with fresh plants and making the front of the church look so pleasing. *Catherine*

Fish and Chip Baby* Knitwear



I have received a letter from Hugh Henderson MBE, CEO of Mission International to say "thank you" for all the hard work from those who have knitted for the above.



These pictures from the last delivery to Uganda show how delighted the mums are to receive the hats and jumpers.

Denise

*They would go home wrapped in newspapers if it were not for the knitwear supplied.

Ntungungwe School.

These are some of the school's youngest pupils. They are full of energy and enthusiasm and love telling everyone what they have been doing.



Picture from Gill Dudman's Newsletter

Lesley and Steve visited Phil and Carole Thomas who send their best wishes to all at Stoneleigh.



The ancient church of St Thomas the Martyr is known to have been in use in 1186 and has a lovely interior with a 12th century chancel.

The medieval Monnow Bridge in Overmonnow, Monmouth



Pictures by Lesley.