

The Link

Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins
Fd.A; DipHE

Stoneleigh Methodist Church Magazine

June – July 2018



picture by Tom Turner

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



The wedding of Mr James Tallon and Miss Gemma Gauld took place on Wednesday 18th April at 4pm. By the couples' expressed desire It was a very quiet ceremony with just a few witnesses.

Photos by Tom Turner



Walk of Witness

On Good Friday, Epsom Churches Together organised a Walk of Witness, from the Town Hall Car Park, through the High Street to the Market Place. Several of our members were there. The Easter Story was re-enacted on the route and we had good fellowship, with many Christians from other churches, and reminded Epsom shoppers that there's more to Easter than chocolate!

Words and picture from Vivienne Ridgway



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

I believe we are all enjoying the nice warm weather lately and we hope it will stay for a bit longer. In the last two months we have walked together through the days of Lent, celebrated the Lord's resurrection on Easter day and now looking forward to Pentecost as at the time of writing.

Soon after Easter, Nana and I joined a group of members from Martin Way and Raynes Park to Spring Harvest from 3rd – 8th April and the venue was Minehead.

When I was a lay worker in East London I used to organise the Sunday School to Skegness for Spring Harvest so I was really looking forward to going back after a very long break.

The main theme was "Only the Brave" based on the book of James.

Speakers were excellent and the main theme was divided into five sub themes – Face it; Live it; Tame it; Lose it and Finish it.

The same themes were followed through at the young people's group.

A summary of the theme from a study book which all the speakers had contributed to states that: "Discipleship is about allowing Jesus to shape us in all areas of our lives: our heads, our hearts, and our hands. The book of James allows us to grapple with how we FACE the new reality through Jesus. We question how to LIVE out this new life. We hold the reality of things we need to TAME in becoming more Christlike. We determine what to LOSE to ensure we only carry what we need and then we

FINISH the faith race well. So may our lives be shaped by Jesus as we: FACE IT; LIVE IT; TAME IT; LOSE IT and FINISH IT."



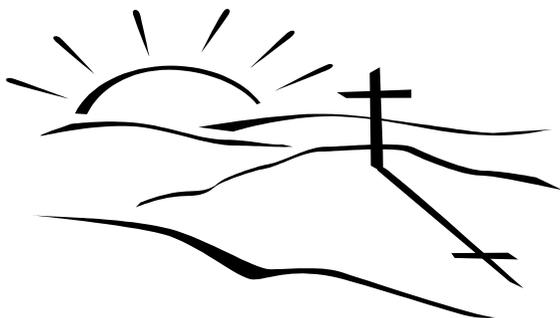
There were several workshops; teaching and discussion sessions, prayer stations etc as well as fun time in the afternoons. One of the workshops was about brokenness although to be broken isn't always about being destroyed but as the situation is given up or brought up to the Lord, the power of the Holy Spirit joins the broken pieces and it becomes a beautiful new collage/pot where the Spirit holds it together. So rather than seeing the object as just mended, it is seen as the Holy Spirit holding it together again



The whole programme was very refreshing and spirit-filled and we can't wait to go again next year. I am pleased that Nana has been given the opportunity to share his experience with the Sunday school at Ruxley as well as the whole congregation.

We rejoice and give God thanks for the new addition to the Royal family – Prince Louis Arthur Charles; we also pray for God's blessing upon the two royal family weddings this year and in anticipation of wonderful things to happen, we continue to depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue to demonstrate the love and care of God's kingdom within our community and beyond.

Every blessing *Emma*



Steward's Notes (Last Writes)

Is it really almost six years since Marion and I joined the Stewardship team? At the beginning it seemed to be a significant commitment of our time and the weeks passed very slowly.

We were eased into the role by having a period where we acted only as No. 2 Steward. This meant that we were spared from what was (for me at least) the very daunting prospect of welcoming preachers and preparing with them in the Vestry, welcoming worshippers from the lectern and saying the 'Prayer for the Church Family'. As time went by we were able to play a fuller part in the regular planning and discussion meetings, but this was mainly due to the harmony in the group, and the help we received from the very experienced team already in post.

Now, almost at the end of my stint I can say that, for me, it has been an honour and a privilege to have played, *albeit* compared with others, a very minor role in Church life. After the very slow start mentioned above, the time has zipped by.

If I were to limit myself to two highlights, I would suggest Martine introducing us to some wonderful John Bell hymns and to the great man himself, and the gravitas of the moving *illustrated* Good Friday Services led by Emma.

What now for the future? At the time of writing only two of those agreeing to undertake the role of Steward are prepared to undertake the duties of No. 1 Steward, the prospect of which I found so daunting. In my case, whilst I never felt worthy, I applied the reasoning, "we are all good friends at SMC and everybody present is on your side, so you can't possibly fail". Of course praying for God's support in helping yourself can also provide more courage.

There are many people who have no fears in addressing folk in any setting, but where there is no fear there is no need to bolster up courage. The bravest thing to do is to go beyond your comfort zone. It is also the most rewarding. Some people with reservations are able to dive into a 'feared' task and push on with it but, for many of

us this means taking very small, ever forward, steps until you eventually realise that (whilst still finding many aspects daunting) there remains nothing you are not prepared to do to support your Church, if called upon.

I use the title 'Last Writes' not only because it is my last Stewards report, but because serious consideration is being given to discontinuing 'Stewards Notes' in the Link. This is a Link article which I have always looked forward to reading and given that, with the number people who have now stepped forward to assist as Stewards, their turn to write the entry would arise less frequently than once a year, and it would be a great shame to lose this long-standing tradition.

So, my final words are thank you to Martine and Emma and all those who have assisted me in my journey (especially Marion). **New Stewards**; please consider testing yourselves outside your comfort zones and, '*Save the Stewards Notes*' by offering to take your turn.

Ernie Baker

Nana says thank you to all who saved up their bottle tops for Cuddington Community school's art week

Below is his class work (Year 5)



Synod Saturday 28th April

What a great Synod we had. I really love going and it is open to anyone so if you fancy coming do speak to Emma or myself.

The theme this time was Pilgrimage.

Worship was led by Enfield church. Their Minister played the trumpet to accompany the piano.



The Children's Worker spoke about a group called GODS which means "God's Generation of Disciples", plus another group called Fusion for the older ones.

It was inspiring to hear that Enfield was also focussing on older pilgrims including a partnership with MHA "Live at Home" scheme. They really felt called to nourish and uphold their older generation.

We heard as part of the general business of Synod that The Methodist Conference had elected London's Revd Michaela Youngson to serve as President and Bala Gnanapragasam as Vice President.

Michaela has served as Chair of London District since 2012, and Bala serves on the board of Christian Aid and MHA. They both have a passion for social justice. Revd Faith Nyota will also be on call for Central Hall duties etc!



We heard of all the movement of ministers to new positions and heard that Revd Margaret Adams was standing down. I was glad to be there with her, a special time.

I always think the best part of Synod is the guest speaker and this was a wonderful one. We were addressed by Jill Baker, Vice President of Conference, on the theme of Pilgrimage.

She reflected on her calling, and her ministry now, as Laughter and Lament. Jill lives in Glasgow,



Scotland and informed us there were less than 200 Methodists there. Glasgow had the first Homeless Jesus Statue

She spoke very movingly about her time working in the Caribbean and the tragedy of losing her son, who took his own life at the age of 18.

She spoke about how every journey is to some extent a flight and we need to reflect on what we are running away from, and to place as much emphasis on the journey as arriving at the destination. She felt a prerequisite to a pilgrimage was a sense of restlessness. Because of her situation she wanted God to be bigger and wilder, she needed God to find her in a different way. She developed a hunger for more travelling and in the journeying part of life started taking people on pilgrimages to Lindisfarne. She said she was hopeless at directions, but she had good advice from her husband "Always keep the sea on your right!". And of course she had to really check up on the tides.

Jill also went to Israel and Palestine and was very moved by The Golden Dome Mosque and Bethlehem.

She spoke about travelling light literally, and in our own lives what can we leave behind to go forward. There was so much more but I could not take notes fast enough! Each section was interspersed with great quotations but again I could not get them down.

She spoke with such a sense of deep spirituality, that was relevant and based on her devotion to prayer and being outdoors encouraging others to make pilgrimages. I wanted to sign up there and then.

I will finish with a phrase she used Liminality
See life as a transition, stop clinging to things that can be taken away from you. Sit lightly to the good of God. Courage is carrying on when we are not brave.

I spoke to Jill afterwards about maybe making her talk available on The Methodist Website. She said she would think about it but obviously still had a very busy part of the Vice Presidency ahead of her.

Jeananne Holtorp

Annual Church Meeting 29th April 2018

We heard reports from all the activities of the church and approved the appointment of officers. As we now only have two Stewards along with the Leadership team we are now incorporating a 'Vestry Team' who will work alongside the Stewards in assisting the Sunday Worship routines.

It was also agreed by the Church Council at the Annual Church Meeting on 29th April that SMC would adopt the proposed new mission statement (*given below*).

We enjoyed a hot cooked lunch after the meeting, prepared by Vivienne (and others who also brought along a varied choice of puddings.

Helen Quaife

THE NEW SMC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Stoneleigh Methodist Church is to respond to God's love as revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and to live as His followers, enabled by the Holy Spirit.

To fulfil this mission we aim to provide a welcoming and caring place where people come together in worship and fellowship; an environment which encourages us to:

- **Worship:** to acknowledge God as the creator, and first in our lives;
- **Learn:** from scripture, and from the experiences of our daily lives, about His love, greatness, grace and mercy;
- **Respond to His love:** by caring and serving those around us in whatever way we can, acknowledging and accepting failings and weaknesses in ourselves and those of others;
- **Grow:** by striving to become more like Jesus;
- **Witness and Reach out:** to the local community and to the wider world sharing and teaching the Good News of Jesus;
- **Support those working for peace, justice, and freedom from want:** by nominating, and supporting charities established to promote and fulfil these objectives.

Agreed on 29.04.2018

Contacts.

Bookings

020 8393 2155

Church Pay Phone

020 8393 9743

*He has showed you, O man,
what is good
And what does the Lord require
of you?
To act justly and have mercy
and to walk humbly with your
God.
Micah 6:8 (NIV)*

**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**

*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

3 rd June	Holy Communion	Rev. Emma Aikins
10 th June	Parade Service	Rev. Emma Aikins
17 th June	Morning Worship	David Eagle
24 th June	Memorial Service	Rev. Emma Aikins
1 st July	Morning Worship	Tony Loft
8 th July	Morning Worship	Valerie Ashcroft
15 th July	Holy Communion	Rev. Emma Aikins
22 nd July	Morning Worship	Local Arrangement
29 th July	Morning Worship	Rev. Emma Aikins

Rotas

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
3 rd June	Lesley/Jeananne	Ruth/Christine	Tom
10 th June	Marion/Ernie	Norma A/Geoff	Pat P
17 th June	Lesley/Denise	Brenda/Ken	Robin
24 th June	Marion/Ernie	Pat S/Geoff	Tom
1 st July	Val/Jeananne	Ruth/Christine	Ken
8 th July	Denise/Debbie	Doris/Jeff	Norma J
15 th July	Jeananne/Catherine	Norma A/Catherine	Tom
22 nd July	Marion/Ernie	Ruth/Christine	Catherine
29 th July	Lesley/Jeananne	Jeff/Doris	Ken

Tuesday Fellowship

Please feel free to come along to Fellowship at any time, there will always be a warm welcome.

5 th June	Devotional
12 th June	Informal afternoon
19 th June	Movie Afternoon – NOTE 2.00 p.m. START
26 th June	Ben Scadden – Epsom Street Pastors
3 rd July	Rev. Margaret Marsh
10 th July	Ewell Ladies Choir
17 th July	Rev. Emma Aikins
24 th July	Graham Dash – Painshill Park Trust
31 st July	Strawberry Tea at Barbara Airey's

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST – meet again 4th September

Jesus the first and the last,
you are alpha and omega,
beginning and end.
You are at the beginning of the year,
you are with us at its end.
You are at the beginning of our lives,
you are with us at our end.
Hope- kindler,
life-bringer,
gift- giver,
work in us your gifts of grace,
bring us forgiveness,
and perfect us in love. Amen.

*Jonathan Pye, Bristol District Chair.
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Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

God of love, we pray for this church
where your love has been known for many years.
We pray that we will welcome everyone in Jesus'
name
and that as your love pours in,
it will overflow to our neighbours.
May each person come to know that they are loved by
you
And to love you in return.
May all grow in faith as we learn and pray together,
and may our faith be seen in action. Amen.

*Vision Team, Lindley Methodist Church, Huddersfield.
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Single Consecrated Life

The Anglican Single Consecrated Life (SCL)

On the 24th June at 6.30pm I shall be making a Life Vow to the Single Consecrated Life (SCL) in a service at St. John's Church, 222, Epsom Road, Merrow, Guildford GU4 7AA. It would be lovely if you were able to join me for the occasion. Refreshments will be served in the Centre from 4pm. In making a life vow part of my calling to serve God has been fulfilled and I would value your prayers as I prepare to make this commitment.

I first heard about the SCL in 2011 whilst reading the newsletter of the Sisters of the Church, (I am an associate of that order). Making a vow to the single consecrated life was something I had been thinking about for a while but I needed time to discern what God was calling me to.

The issue of making a vow to the single consecrated life resurfaced in October 2015 when in the chapel of Sisters of the Church and I knew the time was right to explore.

Following discussions with various people I sent my enquiry form to the Bishop in February 2016. I met a Bishop's selector and made my first vows in January 2017. A candidate must be over thirty years of age to make a life vow and maintain their first vow for a minimum of one year.



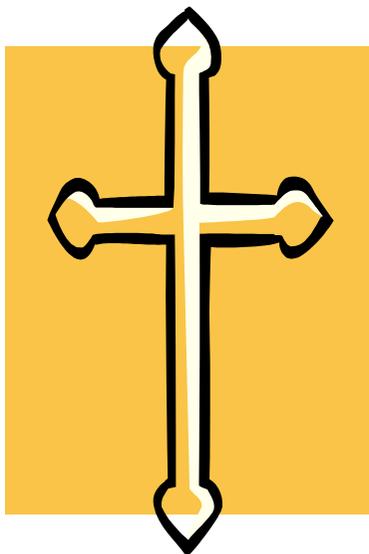
The network came into being because increasing numbers of requests were being received by Bishops and others for advice and guidance from those seeking admission to the consecrated celibate life and for whom being a nun or a monk was not the right life choice. The network is open to anyone who is currently single and wishes to remain so in a church affiliated to the Church of England.

The Advisory Council on the Relations of Bishops and Religious in July 2002 agreed to set up a private vows subgroup to monitor requests and to provide necessary guidance to Bishops and lay people. Meetings and discussions were held over a two year period and in 2004 legislation for hermits and consecrated single people was published in the Handbook of the Religious Life. The launch day was Saturday 23 April 2005.

For catering purposes if you are hoping to come please could you let me know by Friday 15 June.

My contact details: email [d.pinchin1 @btinternet.com](mailto:d.pinchin1@btinternet.com), or 020 8393 9839

Thanks to Sr. Elizabeth Rees OCV who supplied the background to the formation of SCL and a member of the subgroup. *Diana Pinchin*



Archaic Hymn Language (a personal view)

For some time now I have found it difficult to sing hymns that contain the words thee, thou, thy, thine, and even art, hast, wast and wilt.

These words are usually, though not always, found in hymns written in the 18th Century or earlier. Sometimes the words occur at the end of a line and are used to rhyme with others before or after the words concerned.

Now we are well into the 21st Century can we make a conscious effort, where possible, to abandon words that were common in the 17th Century and have long since passed out of everyday use?

The second paragraph of the Preface to 'Singing the Faith' is particularly relevant. Some may argue that the old words are part of tradition in our musical worship and should not be abandoned. If so how is it that we have readily accepted, since 1952 when the first modern translation of the Bible was published as the Revised Standard Version, words that are written and read in current English and not in the traditional language of four Centuries ago?

Also, with the notable exception of the Lord's Prayer that we tend to use in the old version, our written and spoken prayers are regularly used for worship in modern language that we can instantly recognise and accept. I would personally hope that we could gradually become used to the modern version of the Lord's Prayer until we felt comfortable with using it regularly in place of the old version.

If any of the above arguments find favour with individual readers and worshippers can I suggest that you join me in singing the modern words in place of their archaic versions whenever possible?

Some of the older hymns in 'Singing the Faith' have already had their original words amended and we sing these almost without noticing the change. Perhaps this could also be arranged for other older hymns where all the words are projected on the screen.

All this should help our sung worship to become in time as up-to-date and as fully meaningful as our spoken worship.

I emphasise that these are ~~if~~ my own personal views which I offer, hoping to evoke ~~serve to produce~~ verbal or written comments from individual readers, and if this results in full consideration of the matter (and perhaps my recommended changes) so be it. *Yea verily, Geoff*

From the News Sheets

March 18th

Nana says thank you to all who saved up their bottle tops for Cuddington Community school's art week which starts tomorrow.

March 25th

Spinnaker Trust were the 'private' users of the Church last Wednesday, a Christian Charity supporting primary schools with assemblies and RE lessons. Around 120 year 5 (age 9-10) children from Auriol and Cuddington Community schools visited during the day, visiting Jerusalem, the last supper, the crucifixion and the empty tomb set up in our church and explained by costumed volunteers from local churches. They are looking forward to being re-invited next year.

EACH - Easy Access Church, is a place where all are welcomed, included and encouraged. You are invited to a short church service at All Saints Church Hall, Fulford Road, West Ewell KT19 9QY especially geared for those with disabilities but open to all, followed by refreshments. Services are planned for this Sunday, 25th March, and Sunday 22nd July, both at 3:00pm. There is a flyer on our main notice board.

April 15th

Notification of our Annual Church Meeting on Sunday 29th April at noon to all Church members. Please will all groups let me have their reports (email if possible) by 20th April to send out with the Agenda. At this meeting we will be voting for Church Officers. Val, Marion & Ernie finish their time as Stewards this year so, if you are considering nominating someone (with their agreement), or volunteering to take on the role of Steward yourself, please let Emma know by this coming Friday (20th). Also; if you may be prepared to take on some (but not all) of the duties of a Steward and would like to discuss the possibilities and what is involved before speaking with Emma, please approach any of the existing Stewards (including those who are about to step down). Thank you - Denise.

During the Annual Church Meeting, there will be the re-presentation of the two versions of the new mission statement. This is a Church Council item which means that Church Council

members will have to vote for this. Copies will be sent out soon for your consideration/vote. *Emma*

April 22nd

Courtyard Planting. The Beavers have very kindly offered to plant up the baskets and planters in the courtyard this year after the beautiful displays by the Cubs last year. Our thanks go to them and we look forward to seeing the display.

April 29th

Refreshments will be served after the Service in the Link Room, followed by our Annual Church Meeting and lunch.

Wesley Pilgrimage. As part of the Wesley Day Celebrations there will be a Pilgrimage on May 24th from St Paul's Cathedral to Wesley's Chapel starting at 5:00pm and finishing with a service at 7:30pm. Full details on the notice board and you are welcome to join or leave the Pilgrimage at any point.

May 6th

Circle the City Walk I shall be doing this walk once again on May 20th all around London visiting many churches along the 10K route to raise money for Christian Aid. Last year some of you were very kind and sponsored me – please see me if you'd like to this year -

Jeananne

The Rev Margaret Adams, our Circuit Superintendent, is retiring from full time ministry at the end of July. To mark the occasion the Circuit will be holding a Service at the Lantern Methodist Church, Raynes Park at 3.00pm on Sunday 1st July. This will be followed by a Farewell Tea. I have been asked by the Circuit Stewards to ascertain whether any of our Church Members would like to attend this occasion and/or make a contribution to a gift to be presented to Margaret to thank her for her work in the Wimbledon Circuit. A card is also in circulation. If anyone would like to know more about this matter can speak to me or one of the other Stewards. *Marion*





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Hope - Epsom and Ewell & PrayerTree

The Easter Experience

On a Wednesday before Holy Week, the Spinnaker Trust took over our church to bring the story of Easter to children from Auriol and Cuddington schools.

The Spinnaker Trust is a local charity that supports local Primary Schools in their delivery of Collective Worship and Religious Education

Different scenes were set up throughout the church – the welcome to Jerusalem in the vestibule, with bunting and palm leaves, the temple with coins spilt

all over the floor at the back, the last supper set up at the front, the garden of Gethsemane on the front steps, Pilate's court on the communion table, the crucifixion scene in the New Room, and the empty tomb back in the Children's corner.



The photos here show the coins on the floor of the temple, and Pilate's Court

Fortunately, we have two eye-witnesses to the experience. Nana said "the Easter Experience was very detailed and precise story. I enjoyed being in the temple which had pictures of how we can be distracted in different ways and that is

my most memorable scene." And in Harrison's own words "It's was amazing. It summarises the Easter story brilliantly."

I took more photos of the scenes, but there were too many for The Link. They can be seen in the vestibule. Do have a look.

Vivienne Ridgway

'You Must Remember This'

New singing group opens.

On Wed 9th May The Worshipful Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Cllr Liz Frost and her Consort, Cllr Chris Frost joined our volunteers at the first meeting of our new group. We celebrated with strawberry scones and a good luck cake and enjoyed a sample of some of the songs we will be using in our afternoons. The group aims to bring fun and friendship to those living with Dementia by singing together. Singing exercises mind and body, helps to stimulate memories and makes you feel great.

Everyone should be accompanied by a friend, relative or carer who will have the opportunity to meet others in the same situation and share their experiences over a friendly cup of tea. We meet on **Wednesday afternoons 2 – 3.30pm.**

EXCEPT the first Wednesday of each month.

Costs £1.50p per week.

No previous singing experience necessary, just come along and enjoy yourself. If you feel that this group could benefit you why not come along and join us at

Stoneleigh Methodist Church, Stoneleigh Crescent, KT19 0RT

For more information ring **Jeananne on 07729 028850.**

