Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Loving, serving and praying in the Stoneleigh Community

Sunday 20 September 2026 - 10:30am

Holy Communion with the Rev Emma Cusack

You can also follow many of our Services online at http://bit.ly/SMCTube

Welcome

A warm welcome to all worshipping with us here today - our Offertory this Sunday will be for the Methodist Church.

We can also accept **direct donations** to our General Church funds through our bank account 400206 20021725 using the description 'GASDS' – many thanks in anticipation.

Prayers

Please pray for **Emma** leading our Service here today; also for our **Stewards** and others within the Church and beyond who work quietly and often unseen for the benefit of all. We remember in our prayers those of our members not on top form just now for various reasons. Please pray also for those in **Norma A's** pastoral care group.

Notices

COFFEE MORNING – Thank you to everyone who donated a great variety of cakes and biscuits for yesterday. We had quite a few visitors and made £328 for Church Funds. Grateful thanks to all the willing hands, especially to Marion for your wonderful organisation, and all those who helped setting up on Friday evening and who came along to help and support this morning making it such a good event. *Denise & Pat*



FOODBANK – As we approach our Harvest Parade Service on the 11th October, we will be repeating the donation requests we made last year-ie tinned and dried food as our usual weekly request PLUS Fresh Fruit and Vegetables. Fruit and vegetables should be brought to the Service on the 11th (other foodstuffs etc can be placed in the Church during the preceding week.)

Bookings

Entries in **bold** are open to the public, in *italic either strictly private, or* you need to book in advance -(if no contact is given then phone us on [redacted] for details.)

Monday	**Ladies Badminton**	**1130- 1300 in Hall**	**contact Tina [redacted]**
	Conquest Art	**1400- 1600 in Link room**	**contact Lesley ([redacted])**
	private activity	*1830- 1930 in Hall*	
	private meeting	*1900- 2200 in Link room*	
Tuesday	*private dance*	*0930- 1030 in Hall*	*see leaflets for Ascenda Dance*
	Tuesday Fellowship	**1430- 1630 in Link room**	**'Diminishing Whist**
Wednesday	**Knit & Natter**	**1000-1200 in room 1**	**contact Denise [redacted]**
	Badminton	1330- 1500 in Hall	
	private meeting	*1930- 2130 in room 1*	
	Badminton	**1945- 2115 in Hall**	
Thursday	**Carers & Toddlers**	**0900- 1200, Link room & Hall**	
	private activity	*1830- 2030 in Link room*	
Friday	**Hartbeeps**	**08:30- 1330 in Link room**	**see posters on Notice boards**
	Table Tennis	**1400- 1600 in Hall**	**pop in Friday pm to enquire**
Saturday	*private party*	**1400- 1700 in Hall**	
Sunday	**Morning Worship**	**1030– in Church**	**with Deacon Dawn Canham**

Thursday Zoom Prayer Group

Thursday	**Morning Prayer**	**0915- 1000**	**Click here or** *Meeting ID: 825 5146 8861 Passcode: 496144*

MUSIC SEASON AT ST JOHN'S. For those of you who have been to events pre-Christmas at St John's before, I've put up their poster on our main Notice board at the Link room entrance. By all accounts very well produced (the events as well as the poster!) I gather tickets are going very well. *Robin*

BABY & PRE-SCHOOL BALLET

Now running on termtime Tuesdays, we welcome this new group to SMC – leaflets by the Link room entrance - if you know any young family who might be interested maybe let them know? Robin

MILK BOTTLE TOPS. Thanks to all those who have kindly donated the screw tops from plastic milk bottles in the past. Our regular recipient for these has now ceased collecting, and I have been unable to find a suitable alternative who is interested in the small quantities we could supply. *Robin*

Sunday Worship, 20 September, 10.30am

Reaffirmation & Recommissioning Service, with Holy Communion.
Led by Rev Emma Cusack

Watch live or at any time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/fbfECK071Ag

Welcome, Notices, and Prayer

Call to Worship

Prayer

Father, we praise you that you are far, far greater than we can ever understand.
We thank you that you have made yourself known to us in Jesus.
We praise you for your love to us in Christ Jesus.
We will never understand how great your love really is.
Lord, you are our God, and there is no other.
You are our God, and we want no other.
You are our God, and we give you thanks and praise.

It is in worshipping you that we see ourselves as we really are.
It is only through your love that we can face what life brings.
It is only as we stand together that we will know the joy of belonging to the kingdom of God.
Lord, give us a real sense of your presence and power each day.
Help us to know that our sins are forgiven; that we are accepted.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hymn: Singing the Faith 682

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient Church's story;
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

Heal your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878–1969)
© Stephen F Downs legal representative of Dr Elinor Downs (OL)

Reading: Acts 2: 41-47 NIV

41 Those who accepted Peter's message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46-47 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Recommissioning of Pastoral Visitors MWB:345-346

Today, we recommission those who offer themselves for service as Pastoral Visitors here at Stoneleigh Methodist Church.

We are the Body of Christ: **each of us is a member of it.**

There is one ministry of Christ: **in this ministry we all share.**

There are different ways of serving God: **it is the same Lord whom we serve.**

It is the tradition of the Methodist Church that within our community we offer pastoral care to one another. Without God's help no one can exercise this ministry; but the Holy Spirit has been given to us and is our Helper and Counsellor.

The Pastoral Visitors are invited to stand, either at their seats or to come to the front.

Friends, you have been called by God through the church to the work of pastoral care. Relying on God's grace, will you endeavour to fulfil the ministry of pastoral care here at Stoneleigh Methodist Church?

The Pastoral Visitors respond: **With God's help, I will.**

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God,
that you have sent Jesus Christ your Son to be our Shepherd and Saviour.
Give to these your servants
the power of the Holy Spirit for this work and ministry;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Members of the Body of Christ, will you encourage our Pastoral Visitors in their ministry and support them with your prayers?

With God's help, we will.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 664

Lord, you call us to your service,
each in our own way.
Some to caring, loving, healing;
some to preach, or pray;
some to work with quiet learning,
truth discerning, day by day.

Life for us is always changing
in the work we share.
Christian love adds new dimensions
to the way we care.
For we know that you could lead us,
as you need us, anywhere.

Seeing life from your perspective
makes your challenge plain,
as your heart is grieving over
those who live in pain.
Teach us how, by our compassion,
you may fashion hope again.

Lord, we set our human limits
on the work we do.
Send us your directing Spirit,
pour your power through,
that we may be free in living
and in giving all for you.

Marjorie Dobson
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Reading: John 16: 4b-24 NIV

Jesus said, [4b-5] 'I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, "Where are you going?" [6] Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. [7] But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. [8-9] When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; [10] about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; [11] and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

[12] 'I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. [13] But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [14] He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. [15] All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.'

[16] Jesus went on to say, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.'

[17] At this, some of his disciples said to one another, 'What does he mean by saying, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me," and "Because I am going to the Father"?' [18] They kept asking, 'What does he mean by "a little while"? We don't understand what he is saying.'

[19] Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, 'Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me"? [20] Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while

the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. [21] A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. [22] So with you: now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy. [23] In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. [24] Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Welcome back into Membership

Lord, we receive back into membership Steven Draper.
By your Holy Spirit, may he continue to be yours for ever.

Steven, we receive and welcome you back into membership at SMC.

Reaffirmation of Members MWB:97-101

The Members of Stoneleigh Methodist Church and other Methodist Churches are invited to stand.

Sisters and brothers, by grace, through the sign and seal of Baptism, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we become God's people, the Church.

In Confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit that we may remain in Christ for ever as his faithful servants and witnesses.

Let us pray.

Living God, may all who are baptised into Christ be sustained by the Holy Spirit, that through lives of faith and love your grace may be known and your name honoured; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

People of Stoneleigh Methodist Church, at your Baptism into Christ, God offered you the gifts of his grace and has constantly been at work in your life. In this moment God offers to strengthen you by his Spirit and invites you to respond.

Do you turn to God, trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour,
and in the Holy Spirit as Helper and Guide?
By the grace of God, I do.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in the Holy Spirit and the life everlasting. Amen.

By your power and grace, Lord, strengthen us your servants, that we may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Increase in us your gifts of grace, and fill us with your Holy Spirit: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of discernment and inner strength; the Spirit of knowledge, holiness, and awe.

Will you so maintain the Church's life of worship and service that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord?

With God's help we will.

Let us pray.

Generous God, touch us again with the fire of your Spirit and renew us by your grace, that we may profess the one true faith and live in love and unity with all who follow Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 681

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound –
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ its Sun;
our currency be love
and kindliness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Shirley Erena Murray
© 1992 Hope Publishing Company (CCLI/OL)

Reflection

Offertory Hymn: Singing the Faith 351

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

Continued on next page

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
'til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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Administered by Integrity Music, part of David C Cook (CCLI)

Dedication of Offering

HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus said, "Where two or three come together in my name, I am with them." On the night before he died, Jesus had a meal with his friends. While they were eating, he took bread, gave thanks to God, broke it and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." After supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do it in memory of me." We meet together as friends of Jesus, who has invited us to share this meal. We remember that the faith has been passed on to us by those in every generation who dared to follow Jesus. We remember too that we belong to a world-wide family of Christians of every kind. Let us greet one another as sisters and brothers in God's family. May the peace of God be with you.

And God's peace be with you also.

As we think of God's greatness, love and goodness to us, we become aware that we do not always behave like members of God's family. Often, we have not cared about God or about other people or about the world we live in. Let us look at ourselves honestly and ask God to forgive us.

Loving God, even now we do not know how far we have turned away from you; bring us back. Send your Spirit like a strong wind into our lives; disturb our complacency, expose our faults, drive out our pride and selfishness.

Help us to put right the things we have done wrong.
Make us willing to forgive those who have wronged or hurt us.
Clear away our grudges and bitterness.
Demolish the walls we have built between us.
Freshen our lives with your presence.
Help us to live in love with all people.

Pause for reflection.

God forgives us. Each of us is set free to make a new beginning.

Thanks be to God.

When Jesus took bread and wine, he gave new meaning to commonplace things. In the same way, God can use and transform the everyday lives of ordinary people. Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to be part of God's purposes for the world.

Lord, receive these gifts, harvest of the earth and product of human hands.
We humbly ask you to accept us, with our strengths and our weaknesses.
May all be used to serve and honour you.

Almighty God, your love is greater than we can ever imagine or deserve. You loved us long before we knew or loved you. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ you showed us that nothing can destroy your love or separate us from it. You welcome us as Jesus welcomed all who came to him: children and old people, the lowly and the powerful, saints and sinners, strangers and outcasts, the sick and the healthy, those who search for truth.

With all our hearts we thank you, Lord. Help us to recognise your presence and grow in your love. By your Spirit, may this bread and wine unite us with Christ and give us life and wholeness.

After a pause the bread is broken.

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup which we pour is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Pause

Jesus Christ welcomes all to this table. Come - everything is now ready.

A steward will direct you to the front to receive Communion.
Please approach the altar rail from the centre aisle
and return to your seats via the side aisles when dismissed from the altar.

All are welcome to receive Communion. If you do not want to receive,
you may approach the front for a blessing, or simply remain in your seat.

Prayers of Intercession

In the communion, God binds us together as members of one family. Let us remember to care for one another as God cares for us. Let us remember too our responsibility to care for all people and for the whole world which God created.

We pray for this nation and community	*Pause*
for peace and justice	*Pause*
for the church, here and worldwide	*Pause*
for those who suffer for their faith	*Pause*
for the sick and those who care for them	*Pause*
for those in sorrow or need	*Pause*
for homes and families	*Pause*
for this congregation	*Pause*
for ourselves	*Pause*

And we pray the words that Jesus taught his disciples, and that generations of Christians throughout the ages have prayed together as we say:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 692

Your hand, O God, has guided
your flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
our forebears owned your goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Your heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they summoned all to hasten
and share the great King's feast;
their gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, right restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Your mercy will not fail us,
nor leave your work undone;
with your right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by all creation,
your name shall be adored,
and this shall be our anthem:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821–1891)

Blessing

Go into the world in peace, renewed and strengthened by God's Spirit.
We go to serve in the name of Christ.

And the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life
remain with us now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please join us for refreshments after the service at the front of the church, followed by a shared meal in the Link Room.

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