Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Loving, serving and praying in the Stoneleigh Community

Sunday 27 September 2026 - 10:30am

Morning Worship with Deacon Dawn Canham

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 **Dawn** leading our Service here today and **Emma** at Ruxley; 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 **Marion's** pastoral care group.

Notices

HARVEST DONATIONS – 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.)

All donations will be distributed either by Foodbank, or indirectly by the Church to those in need via local Pantries and Churches in the Methodist Circuit.

Many thanks in anticipation.



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	**Zumba Gold** **Ladies Badminton** **Conquest Art** *private activity*	**0930- 1030 in Hall** **1130- 1300 in Hall** **1400- 1600 in Link room** *1830- 1930 in Hall*	**contact Denise** [redacted] **contact Tina** [redacted] **contact Lesley** [redacted]
Tuesday	*private dance* **Tuesday Fellowship**	*0930- 1030 in Hall* **1430- 1630 in Link room**	*see leaflets for Ascenda Dance* **Julian McCarthy –'The History of Manners'**
Wednesday	Badminton **Badminton**	1330- 1500 in Hall **1945- 2115 in Hall**	
Thursday	**Carers & Toddlers** *private activity*	**0900- 1200, Link room & Hall** *1830- 2030 in Link room*	
Friday	**Hartbeeps** **Table Tennis**	**08:30- 1330 in Link room** **1400- 1600 in Hall**	**see posters on Notice boards** **pop in Friday pm to enquire**
Saturday	**Church Cleaning**	**1000 -1200 everywhere**	come share the joy, (and the coffee!)
Sunday	**LA**	**1030– in Church**	**with Richard**

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 enjoyable - I gather tickets are going well. *Robin*

WEBSITE DOWN At the time of writing the NewsSheet the Church website was not reachable – it's still there, but we're having a bit of a delay in getting a couple of computers (!) to talk to each other. All should be fixed very soon, and then you'll be able to contact stoneleighmethodist.church again – might even be working again by the time the NewsSheet reaches you! (this does not affect the on-line Service; that's on YouTube!) *Robin*

Sunday Worship, 27 September, 10:30am

Led by Deacon Dawn Canham

Watch live or at any time convenient to you on YouTube: youtu.be/pn2uvx0N-M8

"Being open to change your mind"

Welcome, Notices, and Prayer for the Church Family

Prayer of Approach and Prayer of Adoration Roots

Loving God,
in an ever-changing world, we come to you for stability.
In a world of so many choices, we come to you for guidance.
In a world so full of knowledge, we come to you for wisdom.
In a world awash with rights, we come to you to discern our responsibilities.
In a world of countless opinions,
we come to you to discover what you think,
that we may be faithful in our promises and wholehearted in our service.

God of all truth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are the source of all positive change;
you are the bringer of all lasting healing;
you are the inspirer of all life-giving choices;
you are the dismantler of all stubbornness;
you are the provider of all opportunities.
So, we worship and adore you
with our hearts, our minds and our lives.
Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 317

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed:

Continued on next page

Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

For this same Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
all the wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.

Caroline Maria Noel (1817–1877)

Prayer of Confession Roots

Faithful God, when we are too proud or too stubborn
to change our minds and our ways: **please forgive us.**

When we make good choices
but then change our minds when things get tough: **please forgive us.**

When we judge others when they change their minds
and underestimate the courage it takes: **please forgive us.**

When we believe it is too late to change
and miss the opportunities we could embrace: **please forgive us.**

So that we may change for the better
and for the right reasons, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hymn: Singing the Faith 347

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God,
before the worlds began;
and ye who tread where he has trod,
crown him the Son of Man,
who every grief has known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.

Continued on next page

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high;
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives, that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side –
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800–1894)
and Godfrey Thring (1823–1903)

Readings: Matthew 21: 23-32 NRSV

23 When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to
him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who
gave you this authority?" 24 Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you
tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 Did the
baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one
another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'
26 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a
prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither
will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28 "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and
work in the vineyard today.' 29 He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and
went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,'
but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first."
Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into
the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness,
and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and
even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

Philippians 2: 1-13 NRSV

1-2 If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in
the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same
mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from

selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.
4 Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. 5 Let the
same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
10 so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

12-13 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence
but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling,
for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good
pleasure.

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.

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:
'til 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.

Continued on next page

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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Prayers of Intercession Roots

We look upon our world with sadness. As the climate gets warmer harvests fail and the poor grow poorer. Many are comfortable and are reluctant to adapt their lifestyles. The climate is changing and we seem to do nothing about it. Yet you have given us stewardship of the planet. We pray that the governments of the world may retain policies and practices that support the transition to renewable energy and phase out the use of harmful fossil fuels. May we all reflect on how we live and find ways to reduce our energy consumption and promote sustainability.

Loving God, **turn hearts and minds towards your kingdom.**

More and more people suffer as a result of mental health issues. Stress causes illness, relationship breakdown and even crime. Yet the world seems apathetic about them. Yet you tell us to love all your children. We pray for those on the brink of despair that they may find the support and guidance they need. We commend to your care the work of Samaritans and all helplines as they offer care and compassion.

Loving God, **turn hearts and minds towards your kingdom.**

Churches struggle. There are not enough people to do the essential jobs. we worry about keeping the show on the road. We focus on maintenance and have no enthusiasm for mission. Yet you command us to make disciples of all nations. Give us the courage to lay down what is past and to look for relevant and innovative ways of being your church in the twenty first century.

Loving God, **turn hearts and minds towards your kingdom.**

Foodbanks report shortages. More and more people turn to them out of necessity. People fear the winter because of the cost of heating our homes. Nothing changes. Yet you call us to feed the hungry and shelter the needy. May those who have plenty realise

how blessed they are and be willing to share generously with those in need. May nations follow policies that discourage greed and which seek to offer help and support to those in greatest need.

Loving God, **turn hearts and minds towards your kingdom.**

Many are suffering in our world. We remember those in hospitals, care homes and hospices especially those who are on our hearts today. We pray for those on waiting lists hoping for treatment and care soon. We commend to you all who work in health and social care at the front line or in policy making. May the care of individuals be a priority. May all health and social care establishments be places of love and peace.

Loving God, **turn hearts and minds towards your kingdom.**

We try to be caring and loving; we try to see your face in those in need; we try to be faithful disciples but sometimes prejudice, self-interest and ignorance get in the way. Help us to look at ourselves; at what we believe; at how we live. May we be transformed into compassionate, faithful, Christ-focussed disciples.

Loving God, **turn hearts and minds towards your kingdom.**

In a time of quiet we bring to God our own special concerns and reflections.

Silence

Loving God, **turn hearts and minds towards your kingdom.**

In the name of our Lord and Saviour we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn: Singing the Faith 362

Meekness and majesty,
manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony –
the man who is God.
Lord of eternity,
dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility
and washes our feet.

Oh, what a mystery –
meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
this is your God!

Father's pure radiance,
perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience
to death on a cross:
suffering to give us life,
conquering through sacrifice –
and as they crucify,
prays, 'Father forgive.'

Continued on next page

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
love indestructible
in frailty appears:
Lord of infinity,
stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity
to the heights of his throne.

Oh, what a mystery –
meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
this is your God, this is your God!

Graham Kendrick
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Sending Out Prayer

Roots

Be encouraged.

Go from this place
united in Christ,
comforted by his love,
sharing his Spirit,
shaped by his mindset.

As humble, servant learners,
bring glory to God the Father
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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