

xPastoral Prayers – December



“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples; if you love one another.” (John 13 v34-35)

This month we ask you to remember and pray for:

Dorothy Mair & her group: Doris Hallworth, Peter Hallworth

Judith Connelly & her group: Dorothy & Fred Pearson, Fiona Bell, Raymond Bell, Pauline & David Dale, Gillian & John Elliott, Hilary Harris, Alan Morley, Sue Parton, Gwen Aston, AS & J Clements, Mai See Wu, Jennifer & Alex Parton, Barbara Porter, Helen Rickinson, Hilary & Donald Spencely

All contributions for future notices & items of interest for the Church Website are welcome! Please contact Lesley Jackson on brackenjack@btinternet.com or telephone 01642 713781 or by passing a note by hand. All notices must be received by the Thursday **before** the following Sunday. **Many thanks.**

The website address is www.stokesleymethodistchurch.co.uk .

Please be aware that what is printed in the notices will now be posted onto our website, which is open to the public. If there is anything sensitive that should not be placed onto this public space, please phrase your notices carefully or let us know that it is for print only. The notices are taken off the website at the end of each month and do not include personal details unless part of an “advert”.

Circuit Website <http://www.stokesleymethodistcircuit.org.uk/>

Stokesley Methodist Church



Sunday 10th December, 2017



Welcome to Worship

10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Andrew Robinson
including the

Sacrament of Holy Communion

6.00pm Town Close with Revd Lisa Quarmby (HC)

Minister: Rev Andrew Robinson
The Manse, 15 North Road,
Stokesley. TS9 5DY
Tel: 01642 710358

Email: rev.andrewr@gmail.com

We believe in a church where all are welcome, where people can engage with God and each other, both actively and reflectively: a place that is a sanctuary, a place of worship and a base for mission.

Please join us for refreshments after the service. If you are visiting, please sign your name in the Visitors' Book at the back of the Church and pick up a Welcome leaflet.

A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources

From the exile of complacency, God calls us home.

From the exile of failure, God calls us home.

From the exile of suffering, God calls us home.

From the exile of all that separates us, God calls us home.

Together, let us come home and worship the God who calls.

Living God, as we light our second Advent candle,

may the beauty of its flame call us

to seek out beauty in all its forms;

may this be a time for celebrating your promises,

and for sharing the good news with urgency, passion and joy;

and may your kingdom come, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 40 v1-11 (p723) Comfort for God's People

Psalms 85 v1-2, 8-13 (p595)

2 Peter 3 v8-15a (p1224) The Day of the Lord

Mark 1 v1-8 (p1002) John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Steward: Dorothy Blakey

Communion Steward: Bob Blakey

Organist: Helen Weighell

Readers: Rosemary Lincoln & Dorothy Blakey

Welcome on the door: Ann & Chris Keene

Coffee is served by: Joyce Binns & Christine Ridgeway

The flowers are a gift from: Helen Weighell

HYMNS: 85 246 238 242 244 (all from H&P)

A Message from the Church Mouse



John the Baptist was the messenger sent to tell people about Jesus. John said, "After me will come one more powerful than I ..." (Mark 1:7). He was a messenger who brought the "good news" of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

For the children:

When you want to send someone a message, how do you do it? You can write a letter and send it by post. Perhaps you are familiar with the computer and send email messages. You can also use the telephone or just use your voice if the person is nearby.



We have lots of ways to send messages now, but earlier it was difficult to get a message to someone. Letters were hand carried or sent by boat and it took months before the letter was delivered.

In America, about one hundred and fifty years ago, mail was carried by the Pony Express. Riders left from Missouri and rode horses, day and night, as fast as they could ride, to California – about two thousand miles away. It was like a relay race where horses were changed every ten miles and riders took turns, each riding a hundred miles or so. The riders were often young, skinny boys, some as young as eleven. It took about ten days for mail carried by Pony Express to arrive. It was a difficult, but exciting journey.

Before Jesus was born, the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was written about by the prophet, Isaiah. This is what was written: "Behold, I will send my messenger... who will prepare your way" (1:2). The messenger was John the Baptist, and he told people about the exciting news that Jesus was coming. Many, many people heard the message that Jesus was coming with the power to change people's lives with his love. Today that message is still with us – Jesus is love and loves us. We also can be messengers of "good news" by accepting God's love and sharing it with others. Let his light shine in your hearts so that you can witness to your friends and point them to Jesus Christ.

For Your Diaries and Your Prayers

- **TODAY at 3.00pm – Charity Concert with Naomi Haigh**
Piano & Cello Cafe-Style Concert. Free Entry, Donations for Mohohoro Foundation for Education in Uganda. Featuring **Naomi Haigh** playing the Piano & Cello & accompanied by Jeremy Harbottle playing the piano.
- **Tuesday 12th December at 2.00pm – Silver Screen Film Show “It’s a Wonderful Life”** starring James Stewart.
- **Saturday 16th December at 3.00pm – Stokesley Methodist Choir Christmas Concert.** You are all invited to this special afternoon of music, with the choir performing songs, monologues, poetry & carols, all chosen to help us celebrate the love & joy of Christmas. Tickets are £7 available from choir members, to include seasonal refreshments.
- **Sunday 17th December at 10.30am – A Special Christmas Service with 9 Lessons & Carols.**
- **Sunday 17th December at 2.30pm – Blue Christmas Service, “A Time to Remember”** with Rev Andrew Robinson. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are feeling ‘blue’ at Christmas. Today Rev Andrew is creating a sacred space for those living through dark times. This service will offer a time for reflection, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.
- **Monday 18th December – Churches Together Carols on the Green at 7.00pm.** Wrap up warm & join us for festive carols around the Christmas Tree accompanied by the Bilsdale Band. As usual the bucket will be coming round & all donations will be given to charity.

POSTAGE STAMPS – As the Christmas cards start falling through your letter-box, please don’t forget to cut off the stamps from the envelopes & save them in a little box. Several Charity shops in Stokesley & the Post Office (PDSA & the Dogs Trust) will take used stamps to help raise money for good causes. You can bring them to Church & put them in the shoe-box at the back of the church.

THIS WEEK

Mon 11th Dec	10:00am till 10:30am – Prayer Time 2:00pm till 3:30pm – Knit & Natter
Tues 12th Dec	10:00am – Stokesley Primary Academy Christmas Concert for families & friends 9:30am till 10:30am – Zumba 1:30pm till 3:00pm – NYCC Play & Learn 2:00pm – Silver Screen Film ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ 7:00pm – ‘I Daniel Blake’ Study Group at the Manse
Wed 13th Dec	1:15pm till 3:30pm – U3A Christmas Meeting with Seasonal Music and Refreshments 2:00pm – ‘I Daniel Blake’ Study Group at the Manse 6:30pm till 8:00pm - Choir Practice 7:30pm till 8:30pm – Zumba
Thurs 14th Dec	
Fri 15th Dec	10:00am – Shoppers’ Service led by John Huddart with Pianist Dorothy Blakey
Sat 16th Dec	10:00am till 11.30am – Coffee Morning with coffee served by Sallie Weighell, Sue Walton & Sarah Baxter 3:00pm – Stokesley Methodist Choir Concert

SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER



10.30am Lessons & Carols	Ken Hudson
2.30pm Blue Christmas	Rev Andrew Robinson
6.00pm Town Close	Stokesley Methodist Choir
Steward	Sue Frank
Organist	Helen Weighell
Door Stewards	Joan Barthram & Lyn Keeling
Flowers	Carole Myers
Coffee	Pauline Dale & Dorothy Townson

ADVENT 2

Leader: We long for the peace of Christ in our world

All: Come Prince of Peace

Choir/Soloist: StF 706

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

All sing:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church

gathered today.

The second candle is lit and this response is used

Reader: Listen for the voice of the prophet
crying out in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Come Prince of Peace

Reader: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him
and the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

All: Christ, shine on the earth today

All sing:

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church

gathered today.

A big thank you to all those people who gave their time
and shoe leather to deliver the Churches Together
Christmas card.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

This year's Church Christmas card is now at the back of the church & you are welcome to add your name to the good wishes we send to each other this Christmas time. All donations will be gratefully received (in the jar provided) & shared between our chosen Church Charities, Macmillan Cancer and Action for Blind (RNIB).

TROLLEY DASH SUNDAY 3 – Sunday 17th December

Our Trolley Dash down the aisle continues for a third time during the morning service.

Don't forget ... Jesus, said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do it for me." Look out to the world, and serve her needs. As we celebrate Advent, help us to remember that we do God's work on Earth as we take care of others in need.

Appropriate **foods** include:

Cereal, Tins of Soup, Pasta, Rice, Pasta sauce, Tins of Beans, Tinned meat, Tinned vegetables, Tea/coffee, Tinned fruit, Biscuits

Also **non-food items** are much appreciated.

These include:

Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes

Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid

Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food. (Please note, due to advice from UNICEF we cannot provide formula milk.)

Many thanks for your generosity.