

## Pastoral Prayers



“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)

Please say a prayer for Lesley’s Dad, Duncan, who is very poorly & in hospital.

### A Pastoral Prayer

We picture Mary and Joseph, huddled in a dirty, draughty stable for shelter, and we pray for all who are homeless.

We think of baby Jesus, laid in a feeding trough for cattle, and we pray for all children born into poverty.

We tremble at Herod’s wrath, and we pray for all families living in danger; especially we imagine the fear in their hearts as Mary and Joseph fled their homeland, and we pray for all refugees forced to do likewise today.

May we see in every exiled mother the troubled face of Mary, in every refugee father the careworn countenance of Joseph, and in every impoverished child the helpless, vulnerable innocence of the baby Jesus.

**Amen.**

All contributions for future notices & items of interest for the Church Website are welcome! Please contact Lesley Jackson on [brackenjack@btinternet.com](mailto:brackenjack@btinternet.com) or telephone 07837178938 or by passing a note by hand. All notices must be received by the Thursday before the following Sunday. Many thanks.

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”.

The website address is [www.stokesleymethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.stokesleymethodistchurch.co.uk).

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

## Stokesley Methodist Church



**Sunday 6th January, 2019**

Epiphany

10.30am Covenant Service

led by Rev Andrew Robinson,

including the Sacrament of Holy Communion

6.00pm Town Close with Rev Andrew Robinson,

Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Minister: Rev Andrew Robinson

The Manse, 15 North Road,

Stokesley. TS9 5DY

Tel: 01642 710358

Email: [rev.andrewr@gmail.com](mailto: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:**

Our feet following trails of camels' hooves, our eyes fixed on the star, let us journey with the Magi to the manger.

From the comfort of our homes and the security of our lives, we come to seek you, Lord, with our hearts, minds and souls.

In worship and adoration,

we kneel before the manger,

gazing in awe at the miracle held in his mother's arms, swaddled in earthly love, shining with heavenly light.

We gather around the Christ-child as did the Magi, laying before Jesus the treasures of our hearts.

**Amen.**

**Today's Lectionary Readings:**

**1 Samuel 1 v20-28** (p272) Hannah Dedicates Samuel

**Psalms 135 v1-14** (p626) Your name, O Lord, endures for ever

**1 John 4 v7-16** (p1227) God's Love and Ours

**Matthew 2 v13-23** (p966) The Escape to Egypt/The Return to Nazareth

**Steward:** Sue Frank

**Communion Steward:** Bob Blakey

**Organist:** Helen Weighell

**Readers:** Pauline & David Dale

**Welcome on the door:** Pauline & David Dale

**Coffee is served by:** Ruth Watson & Rosemary Lincoln

**The flowers are a gift from:** Rosemary Lincoln

**All the Nativity Sets on display over Christmas can now be collected following this service. Many thanks.**

A Message from the Church Mouse for the children (and grown-ups too!):



I'm sure that most of you have read the story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." If you haven't read the story, perhaps you have seen the movie. If so, you will remember how everyone in Who-ville loved Christmas. Everyone, that is, except the Grinch. The Grinch hated Christmas and made up a plan to spoil the joy of Christmas in Who-ville. His plan was to dress up as Santa Claus and go into Who-ville and steal all of their Christmas presents, all of their Christmas trees, and even the food for their Christmas dinner.



What a terrible thing to do! Do you know why the Grinch hated Christmas so much? Well, according to the story, it was because his heart was too small! He was so selfish that he hated to see anyone else who was happy and enjoying themselves. But, as you know, the Grinch's plan did not work. Why? Because the people in Who-ville knew that the real joy of Christmas does not come from the presents, decorations, and food -- it comes from a heart filled with love.

The story of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" is not a true story, but this morning I want to tell you a true story of another "Grinch" who tried to steal Christmas. In fact, he tried to steal the very first Christmas. This "Grinch" was a king by the name of Herod. After Jesus was born, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and asked where they could find the child who had been born to be the king of the Jews. "We have seen his star in the sky and want to worship him" they said. When Herod heard about this, he told the men that when they found the child, they should come back and tell him where the child was so that he could worship him too. The truth is, Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill him. Why? Perhaps his heart was too small! Herod was so selfish that he was afraid Jesus would become more popular than he was and perhaps even take over his kingdom.

Well, Herod's plan to kill Jesus didn't work. After the wise men found Jesus and gave him gifts, an angel told them about Herod's plan and they went back home without telling Herod where they had found Jesus. An angel also appeared to Joseph and warned him of Herod's plan and told him to take Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt where they would be safe.

And so, we see that since the very first Christmas, Grinches have been trying to steal the joy of Christmas. There may be some "Grinches" that are trying to steal your Christmas joy. It will never work -- unless your heart is too small. Make sure that your heart is big enough to share the love and joy of Christmas with everyone you meet -- not just at Christmas -- but all year long.

## For Your Diaries & Your Prayers:

- **Great Yorkshire Quiz Night** on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019** at **Stokesley Methodist Church** starting at **7.00pm**. This will be a fun evening to bring people together for a light hearted quiz of Yorkshire facts and trivia, hosted by VIP Quizmaster Malcolm Wilson. We need to enter 2 teams of quizzers, preferably 6 in each team (no more than 8) to represent Stokesley at this Circuit event. The winning team will win a prize hamper of Yorkshire goodies! Please put this date in your diary & if you would like to take part, contact Sue Frank. Tickets are £8 including a pie and pea supper. We need to let Malcolm Wilson know how many people will be in our team(s) and if there are any vegans/vegetarians by **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January**. Ticket money can be given to Malcolm on the night but tickets are now available from Sue.
- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm – MWiB Afternoon Group**. Judith Wright is our guest speaker with the story of the Great Broughton Methodist Church.
- **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 3.00pm – Teesside Music Society** is pleased to present the **NEW WORLD STRING TRIO**. The programme includes music by Schubert, Naumann, Sibelius & Beethoven. Tickets: Single £15; Student/Claimant £4; Children free. You can normally purchase tickets on the door or alternatively, you can purchase tickets in advance from Julia Haigh on 01642 711618
- **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am** (coffee served from 10am) – **MWiB Morning Group** meet at the home of Mary Hunt, Northfield Drive
- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**. At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17 v21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. The theme for the week of prayer in 2019, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ..." is inspired by Deuteronomy 16 v18-20. During this week, please pray for justice in our society.
- **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 12 noon – Celebration Lunch** to mark the completion of the refurbished Church Hall.
- **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 2.30pm – MWiB Afternoon Group**. The theme for today's meeting is 'Guess Who?'
- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 2.00pm – Forget Me Not Café**

## THIS WEEK

Mon 7th Jan	9.30am – The Prayer/Bible Study Group <b>2.00pm - Help needed to tidy away the Christmas decorations</b>
Tues 8th Jan	7.30pm – Pound Rock-out Workout 9.10am – Zumba
Wed 9th Jan	2.30pm – MWiB with Judith Wright 10.30am – Churches Together Meeting 1.15pm – U3A 'A Weaver went to War' - Lynn Lampart will explain how a piece of cloth in a museum store led to unexpected findings.
Thurs 10th Jan	6.30pm – Choir Practice 5.30pm – Safeguarding Training
Fri 11th Jan	10.00am – Shoppers' Service with Rev Andrew Robinson & Pianist Helen Weighell
Sat 12th Jan	10.00am to 11.30am – Coffee Morning with coffee served by Plym Auty, Dorothy Townson & Elizabeth McClelland

## SUNDAY 13th JANUARY

10.30am	Ron Kirk
6.00pm Town Close	Ron Kirk
Steward	Vanessa Johnson
Organist	Leigh Harrison
Readers	Winifred Laking & June McCleave
Door Stewards	Carole & Mike Myers
Flowers	Pauline Naylor
Coffee	Mary Hunt & Pauline Rowell

**Church Life Questionnaire** - What activities would **YOU** like to see happening in the life of Stokesley Methodist Church during the next 12 months? All ideas are welcome. It would be helpful if you made your suggestions before the next Church Life meeting on **Tuesday 15th January**.

Please share your ideas by speaking to or emailing Andrew (see the front page of the notices for Andrew's contact details), one of the Stewards or any member of the Church Life group. You are always welcome to come along to the Church Life meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am.



### **Woofs & Wellies Woodland Walkies!**

Tip (Lesley's 4-legged friend) is taking part in 'Woofs & Wellies' Sponsored Dog walk in aid of Teesside Hospice! He's taking Lesley & Ellen (Brown) on the 4 mile walk on Sunday 10th February, starting and finishing in the beautiful grounds of Foxrush Farm, Kirkleatham. If you would like to sponsor Tip, please sign the form at the back of the Church. Many thanks & Woof, Woof!

### **Pianissimo IV**

Helen has released a new CD called "**Pianissimo IV**" which you can find at the back of the Church. Like the previous albums featuring Piano & Organ, this double album has one CD with a selection of pieces and the other with Hymns & Worship Songs. The album costs £8 and all proceeds will be donated to Stokesley Methodist Church and MHA Appeal for Music Therapy for people with Dementia.

**Would you like to become a Door Steward?** The role of a Door Steward is to welcome visitors to the church for worship. This 'Welcome' is vital to the mission and ministry of our Church. The 'Welcomer' provides the first contact between the Church and its visitors and are the point of reference for information and help. This 'Meet & Greet' role is an important job each Sunday morning when people come to worship and share in the fellowship that the morning service brings. You will hand out the weekly notices & hymn books, give out other flyers when appropriate, gather the weekly collection, & ensure the stewards or Minister are aware when someone new attends the church so that they can be properly welcomed. The Door Steward Rota is currently being updated for the next year and we would invite everyone to consider taking on this role – all you need is a smile! Please see David Hunt to find out more (tel: 01642 712700)

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January  
12 noon following the Morning Service

## Celebration Lunch

To applaud the completion of  
the Hall refurbishment

Tickets £10  
(from the Catering Committee)

