

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)

A Pastoral Prayer

We pray for those who have been victims of an abuse of power.

May they be overwhelmed with the joy of your peace.

We pray for those struggling to find their place in the world.

May they be overwhelmed with the joy of your acceptance.

We pray for those struggling with loneliness and isolation.

May they be overwhelmed with the joy of your presence.

We pray for those trying to begin again after making mistakes.

May they be overwhelmed with the joy of your transformation.

We pray for one another as we seek to serve and support our communities.

May we all be overwhelmed with the joy of your guiding love.

May the humility of Christ's birth empower you, the faithfulness of the wise men guide you, the generosity of their gifts inspire you; and may the light of Christ shine within you and go before you, today and every day.

Amen.

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 714384** 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.

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

Stokesley Methodist Church



Sunday 5th January 2020

Covenant Service & Food Bank Sunday

9.00am Filling Station

10.30am Morning Worship

led by Rev Andrew Robinson,

including the Sacrament of Holy Communion

6.00pm Evening Worship at Town Close

led by Ron Kirk

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

Come and worship Jesus your king, who receives all that you are and blesses all you can be; who brings hope where there has been disappointment, and joy where there has been downheartedness.

Come and worship Jesus your king and sing your songs of praise.

As rain falls on early crops and brings them life, so may the grace of God fall on us. As a shower that falls and waters the earth, so may the love of God refresh us. And as we gather in the name of Jesus, our Saviour and king, so may the wonder of God inspire us today.

Loving Jesus, we are not wise like those who came to your stable.

We do not have gold, or expensive gifts. We have not seen a star or met with a king. But, Lord Jesus, we bring you the best of all we have, and we ask that you will bless us, encourage us and help us to be your people in your world today, to your glory.

Amen.

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 60 v1-6 (p746) The Glory of Zion

Psalm 72 v1-7, 10-14 (p585)

Ephesians 3 v1-12 (p1174) Paul the Preacher to the Gentiles

Matthew 2 v1-12 (p966) The Visit of the Magi

Steward: Dorothy Blakey

Communion Steward: Joyce Binns

Organist: Helen Weighell

Readers: Dorothy Mair & Rosemary Lincoln

Welcome on the door: Ellen Brown & Rosemary Lincoln

Coffee is served by: Pauline Dale & Dorothy Townson

The flowers are a gift from: Irene Gallagher

HYMNS:

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



Have you ever seen a satellite blinking and moving across the night sky? It looks just like a star, but this kind of satellite is made by men and women and sent into space where it circles the earth. Many satellites orbit our earth continuously and some are no bigger than a beach ball.



Satellites are used for many different things: Some look at the weather and warn us about storms.

Some relay television programs and telephone messages.

Some give us information about the universe. Satellites take pictures of things on earth and are able to locate mountains, rivers, deserts, cities and even individual buildings. With help from a satellite and a computer you can find your house or school and see what it looks like from space.

Satellites help travellers find their destinations. Airplane pilots, boat captains, and drivers of cars are able to receive information from satellites so they know their exact location almost instantly. The wonder of Sat-Navs!

When Jesus was born there were no such things as man-made-satellites. Today's story from Matthew's Gospel is about wise men who used a star to help them find what they were looking for. These men saw a star rising in the east and they had heard that the "King of the Jews" had been born. They wanted to find him. They followed the star until it stopped over the place where the child, Jesus was. "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed." (Matthew 2 v10).

When they saw the child with his mother, Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The wise men found joy when they found Jesus and that same joy is available to each one of us today when we accept God's love.

Find your joy!

For Your Diaries & Your Prayers

- **Tuesday 7th January – MWiB Afternoon Group** meet at 2.30pm for ‘Angela’s Armchair Antics’!
- **Saturday 11th January – Church Council Meeting** at 9.30am (with Breakfast served from 9.00am). Please send Mandy your apologies if you are unable to attend
- **Tuesday 14th January – Silver Screen Film Show** at 2.00pm
- **Tuesday 14th January – the ‘Oasis’ group** meet at 7.00pm
- **Saturday 18th January – Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**



On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer. The account of Paul's shipwreck and three-month, wintertime stay on Malta is found Acts 27 v27 through to Acts 28 v11.

Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith.

In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28 v28).

Hebrews 13 v2: 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.'

TODAY - Service of Farewell for The Revd Paul Hutchinson and family. There is a special Epiphany (non-Eucharistic) Farewell Service in Stokesley Parish Church at 3pm today followed by light refreshments in the Town Hall. All are invited.

THIS WEEK

Mon 6th Jan	9.30am – Prayer & Bible Study 7.30pm – Keep Fit
Tues 7th Jan	9.10am – Zumba 2.30pm – MWiB ‘Angela’s Armchair Antics!’ 5.00pm – Fireplace Youth Club
Wed 8th Jan	1.15pm – U3A: ‘Your Next Station Stop is Stokesley (Revisited)’. Tony Daniels, one of our members, will talk about the railway line that ran between Picton and Battersby, calling at Stokesley. 7.30pm - Zumba
Thurs 9th Jan	5.00pm – Boccia 7.00pm - Yoga
Fri 10th Jan	10.00am – Shoppers’ Service with worship led by Rev Andrew Robinson & pianist Helen Weighell
Sat 11th Jan	9.30am – Church Council Meeting (breakfast served from 9.00am) 10.00am till 11.30am – Coffee Morning with coffee served by Sallie Weighell, Sue Walton & Sarah Baxter.

SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2020

10.30am	Ken Hudson
6.00pm Town Close Steward	Ken Hudson
Organist	Judith Wright
Readers	Ann & Chris Keene
Door Stewards	Sylvia & Ian Waites
Flowers	Rosemary Lincoln
Coffee	Sallie Weighell & Sue Walton