

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)

For your devotions

A Prayer from Christian Aid

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope. Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far. Love compels us to give and act as one.

Amen

A Message from Vanessa & Robert

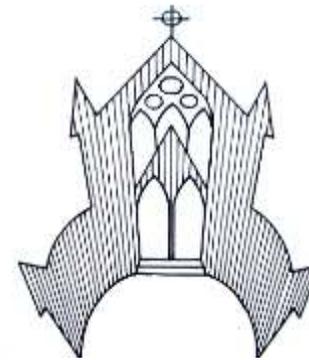
“Can you pass on our thanks to those who have sent us messages & get well cards while we are on isolation.

We are feeling blessed with their kindness & love.”

Please will you also hold Janet Harbottle in your thoughts and prayers. She was taken into hospital last Thursday due to health problems.

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 **Text on 07837178938**. 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”.

Stokesley Methodist Church



Sunday 10th May 2020

I Am The Way



Minister: Rev Andrew Robinson

The Manse, 15 North Road, Stokesley. TS9 5DY

Tel: 01642 710358

Email: rev.andrewr@gmail.com

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

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

Leven Online – Your local Radio Station: <http://levenonlineradio.com/>

During these unprecedented times, we have changed the way we 'go to church' to help to protect ourselves and others. We have put in place measures that will enable us to still be part of the worshipping community, whilst for everyone's sake staying away from our church buildings. If you go to the Circuit Website you will find a range of resources available for you to use at home which we hope will help you to continue your cycle of prayer and worship,

This week's worship in the Circuit is led by Rev Andrew Robinson, Revd Lisa Quarmby & Rev Richard Bradshaw.

<https://www.stokesleymethodistcircuit.org.uk/news/join-us-at-home.html>
and <http://www.facebook.com/stokesleymethodistcircuit/>



The Methodist Church is more than its buildings and we can continue our life as Methodists without using our buildings.

Light a candle on Sunday as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ.



A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources

Dear Lord, as we gather in your name,
listen to us and bring us peace;
be our rock and our refuge, that we may be made strong;
let your face shine upon us, that we may show your love.
Amen.

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Acts 7 v55-60 (p1100) The Stoning of Stephen
Psalms 31 v1-5, 15-16 (p559) In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge
1 Peter 2 v2-10 (p1218) The Living Stone and a Chosen People
John 14 v1-14 (p1082) Jesus Comforts His Disciples/Jesus the Way to the Father

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



During Lockdown, we may well feel 'locked in' as we stay at home & only venture out for exercise, work or shopping. The front door has become our shield & defence. And the feeling of being safe & secure when I lock the door has grown in the past weeks. So let's think of those house keys ... & the keyring on which they hang. How many keys do you have on your keyring? I have to use the right key that is made for a certain lock. Otherwise, no matter how much I try and twist, it won't quite go in.

Will any of these keys get me into Heaven? Will one of them show me how to be close to God? No, these keys won't do that...but what will? There is something, or rather someONE who is the way to God's kingdom. In our Gospel today, Jesus described Himself as being the way, the truth, and the life. He said that He was going to go to Heaven and prepare a place for us. His disciples asked Him to show the way, and asked what God the Father was like. Jesus told them that HE was the way, and that He was one with God. Those who knew Jesus knew God. Way back in the very beginning, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. When they sinned, it locked the door between us and fellowship with God, and brought pain and hardship into earthly life. We're certainly experiencing that pain & hardship now. But fortunately, God is a pretty good locksmith! He had a plan to bring us back into a relationship with Him, and that plan was fulfilled in Jesus. He is the key to life. He is the way we can be saved, draw near to God, and one day go to Heaven! It isn't something we do ourselves. Just like we can't wiggle and force a key into a lock, we can't earn or force our own way into Heaven. We have to come through Jesus. When we put our faith in Christ and trust that His death and resurrection will save us, we can rest assured that we are in God's family. We can talk to God, share our thoughts, and tell Him our hopes and needs in the name of Jesus. We know that we will be in that Heavenly household one day, and in the meantime, we know that Jesus is present and will never leave us. He is the key!

For Your Prayers

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SERVICES/ACTS OF WORSHIP/WEEKLY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH ARE CURRENTLY PAUSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Look out for other ways to meet up online – watch out for emails inviting you to join a **Zoom** meeting. **Zoom** is an easy, reliable cloud platform for video & audio discussions, worship & fellowship, chats & catch-ups, & ‘virtual’ events. Simply download the Zoom App from Google Play, sign up by entering your email address, first & last name, & then agreeing to the terms & conditions. Then to join the meeting, you will need to enter the Meeting ID & Password which will be provided in the invitation.

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION WHO ARE HOUSE-BOUND, ELDERLY, VULNERABLE, ISOLATED ...

IF YOU CAN GIVE THEM A LIFELINE, A REASSURING PHONE CALL, ANY PASTORAL ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE, WE WILL BE VERY GRATEFUL.

If you need help – picking up shopping, posting mail, delivering urgent supplies or simply making a friendly phone call – please contact Rev Andrew if you are self-isolating & would like this pastoral care.

Rest assured that all who are in a position to offer this help will take every precaution to spread ONLY KINDNESS! They will avoid physical contact (keep a 2m distance), wash hands regularly & leave all items on your doorstep.



SHOULD YOU NEED ANY ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT
REV ANDREW ROBINSON (TEL: 01642 710358 / MOB: 07718 516236) or
Mandy (mansemum01@gmail.com /mob 07842 909447)

Alison Dumphy-Brook, Circuit Support Manager
for Stokesley Methodist Circuit

While the church is closed, Alison will be working from home & responding to emails (a.dumphybrook@gmail.com). However, if you would prefer, you can speak to Alison directly by calling her on her mobile (07717 503761)

Your Sunday Services

It's simple! Please go to the Circuit Website & click on the 'Worship at Home' Logo:



On this page you will find the links to any recorded services provided by the ministers or local preachers for the coming Sunday.

Rev Andrew will be streaming his morning worship on Sunday at 10.30am on the [Stokesley Methodist Church YouTube channel](#) (use Google search).

If you want to follow the service at your usual worship time you know that you are joining with friends in their homes at the same time.

Rev Lisa will also be streaming her morning worship on the Great Ayton Methodist Church YouTube channel on Sunday 10th May at 10.30 am.

We are resuming our 'Filling Station Bible Studies' shortly after online worship finishes so grab a coffee, your Bible and a pencil, and come and join us. We'll be continuing to explore the theme of Money and Possession: The Quest for Contentment as part of #HolyHabits #GladnessandGenerosity. More information can be found on the Circuit Facebook page.

In addition, each week we are provided with a worship sheet from District which you can find on the 'Worship at Home' page & which is also available to download from the link in these notices.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/17028/10-may-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

You will also find regular reflections and prayers from our local preachers and worship leaders (click on the 'Thought for the Day' logo).

We're hoping to create a Prayer Wall on the Circuit Website so that you can bring your prayer concerns & we can unite in praying for those who need to know we care. If you have a particular prayer request, please let me know so that I can pass it on (& I can include it in our own Notices 'Devotions').

The Food Bank

While we are facing increasingly challenging times, let's not forget others facing difficulties in our community. Please continue to donate any non-perishable food & toiletries, but while the church is closed, you can use the Food Bank collection points in the Co-Op stores. Many thanks.

What's On This Week

Monday 11th May	Nattering & Knitting at 2.00pm – Please join us for a 'chinwag' & to catch-up on all the 'creative' things we've been doing at home! Contact Ann Keene (keene.home@yahoo.com)
Tuesday 12th May	Our Tuesday night Fellowship will be meeting as usual at 7.00pm (ID 288 056 7734). We will have a catch-up for an hour and then move into our online Oasis Study Group based on our current Holy Habit of Breaking Bread. You are welcome to join us for the fellowship catch-up and then stay on to the 30 minute devotion. Alternatively, if your preference is to leave after fellowship, you can do so simply by just leaving the meeting. You will be welcome either way. Contact Mandy Robinson (mansemum01@gmail.com)
Wednesday 13th May	'Hymn-a-Long' with the Choir at 7.00pm. If you would like to join in, please let Helen know (tel: 710630). The Zoom ID is 288 056 7734.
Thursday 14th May	8.00pm – Clap for our NHS Heroes! And let's not forget all the heroes who are caring for the elderly & vulnerable, especially our Town Close family.
Friday 15th May	10.30am – Online Prayer Group with Rev Andrew. If you want to join in contact Andrew (revandrewr@gmail.com)
Saturday 16th May	10.30am – Coffee Morning on Zoom (ID 2880567734) Contact Mandy Robinson (mansemum01@gmail.com)



Look out for the beautiful displays of Wisteria! Its twining stems covered with hanging trails of blue flowers are a familiar sight in May and June.



Christian Aid Week, 10th-16th May

Christian Aid Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate and share the life-saving work Christian Aid undertakes with your support.

In these challenging times many churches, like ourselves, have already made bold steps, streaming services online and harnessing technology and social media to reach out to communities.

Likewise, Christian Aid Week has moved online! Christian Aid has built a vibrant, virtual Christian Aid Week so that you can take part with its online community. We are invited to join in, to show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family.

In this way, we can still continue to support. Both Hutton Rudby & Great Ayton have set up Just Giving Pages where you can make donations, but you can also donate directly by going to the Christian Aid website.

During Christian Aid Week

It's more important than ever that we come together as a community to worship and to share fun and fellowship. That's why during Christian Aid Week we will be praying together each day, and hosting a fun daily quiz to join and raise funds. Sign up using the links below to take part.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-prayer-reflection>

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/daily-quiz>

Our global response

Christian Aid and its partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and it will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. Christian Aid will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for Christian Aid in this vital work, and support where you can by making an online donation.

Thank You