

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 for Others

We pray to God, who is always ready –

For those overtaken with demands: give rest, O Lord. For those overburdened with anxieties: give rest, O Lord. For those overcome with debt: give relief, O Lord. For those oppressed by powers that despise them: give salvation, O Lord. For those in situations they cannot see a way out of: give freedom, O Lord. For those in need of hope: give hope, O Lord.

O God, you have made us your people.

You have spread your arms wide and welcomed all. Your invitation is always open, always ready to extend and expand. Send us out, now, in the joy of your inclusion and with the mission of your hospitality for all.

Father, Son and Spirit, you dwell in community and call us to community.

Source, Light and Love, you welcome all.

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 **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”.

Alison Dumphy-Brook, Circuit Support Manager for Stokesley Methodist Circuit (a.dumphybrook@gmail.com or mobile 07717 503761).

Stokesley Methodist Church



Sunday 15th November 2020

For everyone who has will be given more ...



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, at home with family, online with friends, coming back together again in Church. 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.

There will be online services from Stokesley & Great Ayton with worship led by Rev Andrew Robinson, Rev Trevor Haigh, Doreen Hunt & David Sills plus local arrangements

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

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



A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:

God of all time, you made time and you entered time to be with us.
We move from ordinary time to extraordinary time, & as we turn to worship you, we worship you in time, in spirit and in truth.
We gather here, at the end of one week & the beginning of another.
O Lord of decades and days, centuries and seconds, we stop now, for this moment, and turn together to you – who holds all time in your hand.
Make us ready to receive you, as we gather here today.
Turning towards you, O God, we also turn towards ourselves.
We think of what we bring, and what we don't.
And we know that even though you call us to be ready, you also support us in bringing the little we have, whether we feel ready or not.
O God of readiness, ready us, as we pray. **Amen.**

Coming, Ready or Not

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Zephaniah 1 v7, 12-18 (p944) ... the day of the Lord is near.

Psalms 90 v1-8, (9-11), 12 (p599) Teach us to number our days aright ...

Matthew 25 v14-30 (p994) The Parable of the Talents

1 Thessalonians 5 v1-11 (p1188) The Coming of the Lord

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



'Peace and security' in this dark world can be hard to find. But those who anticipate the day of the Lord, and already live in the light of the risen Christ, have faith, hope and love as a strong defence against all that seeks to destroy them.



Having addressed earlier in the letter what happens to Christians who die before Jesus returns, here Paul points out that this in a sense doesn't matter. Jesus' death and resurrection means that 'whether we are awake or asleep we may live together with him'. This is the hope that encourages and unites us. For an oppressed and occupied people, the military imagery in this passage carries great resonance, as does the promise of salvation. Life, and faith, can be a battle, yet all the armour mentioned in this passage is defensive: it is our faith, hope and love that will protect us as we work out our salvation. It affirms the Thessalonians' security, & ours, as the children of light. For those of us who are left awaiting 'the day of the Lord', Paul appeals to us to 'keep awake and be sober' and not to 'fall asleep as others do'. The gradual erosion of faith by life and its distractions was as much a danger in Paul's time as it is for us today.

Paul teaches us that we should "... build each other up..." (5:11). He reminds us to encourage and help each other. It is good to learn to get along with others, but it is even better when we do and say things that are encouraging and helpful.

There are many examples of cooperation and learning to work together in the animal world. Think of beavers who work together to create a place to live and bees that work together to produce that tasty honey. Some birds work together to build a nest in which to lay their eggs and take care of their young.

When we learn to work together and "build each other up" everyone wins. A person who is generous and helpful to others is a person who feels good about their own abilities. When we all bring our talents together we can accomplish great things.



SHOULD YOU NEED ANY ADVICE PLEASE CONTACT
REV ANDREW ROBINSON (TEL: 01642 710358 / MOB: 07718 516236)
**PLEASE CHECK THE CIRCUIT WEBSITE EVERY WEEK TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE
WITH THE CIRCUIT PLAN AS THIS MAY BE AMENDED DEPENDING ON
GOVERNMENT/METHODIST CONNEXION GUIDELINES**

Following the latest instructions from the Government regarding the new national restrictions, as from Thursday 5th November places of Worship will be closed, unless they are being used for:

- Funerals
- **To broadcast acts of worship**
- **Individual prayer**
- Formal childcare or where part of a school
- Essential voluntary and public services, such as blood donation or food banks
- Other exempted activities such as some support groups

This is a time of real uncertainty for everyone and the Church will continue to be central to the life of our community in bringing light and hope in any way we can.

We are continuing to follow the recommendations for maintaining a safe & comfortable environment for our 'Open for Private Prayer' time on Friday mornings.

The basic rules are:

- Please stay at home if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Please wear a face mask to safeguard yourself & others.
- Please enter by the front door so that we can record your name & contact number for 'track & trace' purposes. The side gate is exit only or for disabled access. If you do need to enter by the side gate, please make yourself known to the steward at the front door first.
- Please use the hand sanitiser as you enter & leave the church.
- Only people from the same Household or Support Bubble may sit together, while continuing to practice social distancing.

Anyone wanting to come and pray in church will be most welcome.

Your Sunday 'Worship Online' 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 10.15am 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. After a short comfort break (usually approx 15 mins) & time to make yourself a cuppa, we'll be meeting online for our weekly Zoom 'Feeding Station' at 11:30am. If anyone is interested in joining us, please get in touch for the joining details and to receive a PDF copy of the material for each session (it will be mailed out too).

Morning worship at Great Ayton Methodist Church will also be streamed on its YouTube channel on Sunday 15th November at 10.15am.

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/19368/15-november-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

NOTICE OF OUR CHURCH AGM – SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

This will be an opportunity to see what the church has been doing & is going to do in 2020/21. Everyone is welcome. We'll have our usual Coffee Morning at 10.30am & then at 11.30am the AGM will begin. Please do join us for both or just the AGM. Joining details: Telephone 020 051 2874 (Meeting ID 288 056 7734) or log into Zoom > Join a meeting > Enter the ID 288 056 7734



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 Town Hall & Co-Op stores. Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

Please support the church by doing some of your Christmas shopping from our very own collection of Christmas 'goodies'!

<http://www.stokesleymethodistchurch.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Christmas-Catalogue.pdf> (Ctrl+Click to follow link)

What's On This Week

Monday 16th November	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 17th November	Our Tuesday Night Fellowship will be meeting as usual at 7.00pm (Zoom ID 288 056 7734). We will have a catch-up for an hour and then move into our online Oasis Study Group at 8.00pm based on our current Holy Habit. Contact Mandy Robinson (mansemum01@gmail.com)
Wednesday 18th November	'Hymn-a-Long' with the Choir at 7.00pm. The Zoom ID is 288 056 7734.
Thurs 19th November	
Friday 20th November	10.00am – Online Prayer Group with Rev Andrew. If you want to join in contact Andrew (revandrewr@gmail.com)  10am-11am - Open Church for Private Prayer: A time for quiet personal prayer, you can pop in for a few minutes, or stay for a bit longer if you wish - there will be a reflective meditation on the screen for you to view should you wish to use it for your devotions.
Saturday 21st November	10.30am – Coffee Morning with a theme, on Zoom (ID 288 056 7734). Contact Mandy Robinson (mansemum01@gmail.com) Can you up your quiz score this week? Good luck! 

TALE FROM THE GARDEN!

Strong Autumn winds are a real pain! They blow the leaves off the trees, hastening the end-of-season clean-up operation, & then they have the habit of redistributing them just when you think you've swept them all away! Time was when every front garden would be surrounded by privet rather than fencing & hedges have many advantages: they filter wind rather than stopping it in its tracks, they are wildlife friendly & they hang on to fallen leaves preventing them from blowing all around the garden. Hedges look good too. They green up our surroundings & create beautiful natural boundaries. The Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Rotundifolia') is one of the most versatile and popular hedging species.

The polished, bright-green leaves not only create a wonderful aesthetic feature in your garden but they help to reflect sunshine which can increase the amount of light in your garden. The creamy-white flower-cluster that appear in spring have a delicate sweet fragrance and are popular with bees. The berries that emerge in autumn, changing colour from



red to black as the season passes, also provide wildlife value as they are a favourite amongst hungry birds. The laurel was the sacred tree of Apollo, a god in Greek mythology. Laurel wreaths became associated with what Apollo embodied; **victory, achievement and status.**

We've just had Remembrance Sunday when wreaths of poppies have been laid at War Memorials throughout the country. The laying of wreaths allows individuals and organisations to pay their respects and lay a tribute to individuals or groups. It's worth remembering that, together, the circular shape and the evergreen material make the wreath a representation of eternal life & the idea of 'victory' over death.

And we'll soon be seeing another kind of wreath adorning our front doors. Advent and Christmas wreaths are constructed of evergreens to represent everlasting life brought through Jesus & the circular shape of the wreath represents God, with no beginning and no end. Advent and Christmas wreaths are now a popular symbol in preparation for and to celebrate the coming of Christ. Despite Covid-19, for every Sunday of Advent, starting with the fourth Sunday before Christmas on the 29th November, we'll be lighting our candles on the Advent wreath & remembering Jesus' victory ... which is our victory too.