

For your devotions ...



"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 Prayer for Others

Eternal God, it feels as if the whole world has changed & yet in you there is stability and the opportunity of a new beginning.

So, we pray now for those whose lives are in turmoil, those whose lives have been turned upside down, those who feel lost. May they feel supported, find fresh hope, **& use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.**

We pray for those for whom the lockdown has come as a relief, for those who now feel safer, but we pray too for those who now feel desperate, alone and worried about their jobs, their finances, their mental health. May they feel supported, find fresh hope: **Lord, use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.**

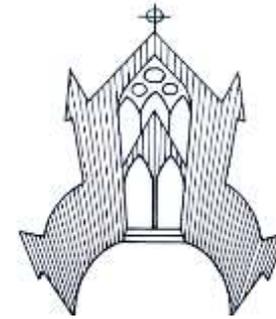
We pray for children and young adults as their schooling is disrupted, we pray for those who enjoy learning from home, but pray too for those who will lose confidence, who miss their friends, who feel vulnerable. We remember their parents & the parents of children with special needs, struggling to cope on their own. We pray for teachers, administrative staff, & all those who feel overwhelmed. May they feel supported, find fresh hope: **Lord, use our prayers in Jesus' name to strengthen them.**

We pray for one another, our families, our communities, our church fellowships. May we support those who are unwell or grieving. May we bring fresh hope to those who feel forgotten and are vulnerable, & may we – both practically and prayerfully – share our faith in your Son Jesus in whose name we entrust these prayers to you.

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.

Stokesley Methodist Church



Sunday 10th January 2021



Minister: Rev Andrew Robinson

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

Tel: 01642 710358

Email: rev.andrew@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/>

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

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.

Today our Online Service at 10.30am will be led by Rev Andrew Robinson.

www.youtube.com/stokesleymethodistchurch/live

<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:

This is the day that the Lord has made. **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We are the family of God. **And are called by God's name.**

We are heirs of Christ's kingdom. **And born of the Spirit.**

Let us, therefore, come together, wherever we are, in thanksgiving.

Lord God, giver of light and life, by your word you bring everything into being – the far-flung galaxies and the tiniest atomic particle.

You have given us a world to enjoy and to care for.

Give us compassion in the use of its resources, wisdom in our stewardship of your gifts, and reverence for all that you have made – for Jesus' sake.

Come, let us honour the powerful glory of our Creator God.

Let us worship God's majesty in the splendour of holiness.

Amen.

The Whole World Changed

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 1 v1-5 (p3) The Beginning

Psalms 29 (p558) Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness

Acts 19 v1-7 (p1115) Paul in Ephesus

Mark 1 v4-11 (p1002) John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



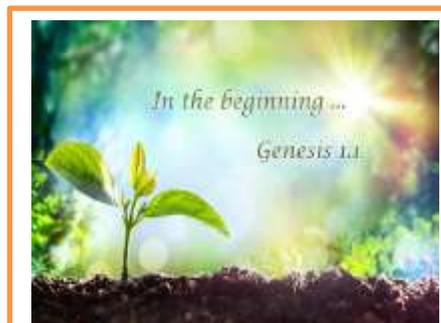
This week our reading from Mark helps us to explore the opportunity for a new beginning that comes with Jesus. As we start a New Year, & a new national Lockdown, we need to focus on seeing 2021 as the door to new & better.

This passage is the first appearance of Jesus as an adult and comes at the beginning of his ministry. His baptism is a new beginning and a transformation. John the baptizer says that he is not worthy to untie Jesus' shoes. He recognises that Jesus will be able to do much greater things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This reading is given alongside the account of the beginning of everything from the opening chapter of Genesis, and a story about the Holy Spirit and new beginnings from Acts. Our new beginnings come through the forgiveness God offers, which is not just the once in a lifetime event of our baptism, but all the forward-looking opportunities that God offers us each and every day. How appropriate are these words by Joseph Hart:

HOW good is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend:
Whose love is as great as His power,
And knows neither measure nor end!

'Tis Jesus, the First and the Last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.



THANK YOU!

I would like to give a very big thank you to everyone who contributed to the MAP appeal for Hats, Scarves, Gloves and toiletries of every sort. There was so much given that it filled two cars. What an achievement!

This was a magnificent result, due to your generosity, showing that we can still do good works despite the Covid Regulations.

Thank you again, Dorothy



SHOULD YOU NEED ANY ADVICE
PLEASE CONTACT
REV ANDREW ROBINSON (TEL:
01642 710358 / MOB: 07718
516236)

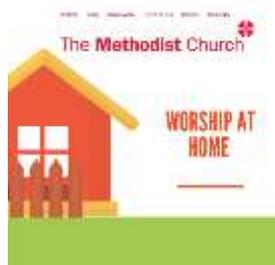
PLEASE CHECK THE CIRCUIT WEBSITE EVERY WEEK TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH THE CIRCUIT PLAN AS THIS MAY BE AMENDED DEPENDING ON GOVERNMENT/METHODIST CONNEXION GUIDELINES

Please note that all the circuit churches will be closed for worship until further notice & this will be reviewed mid-February. The churches will remain open for funeral services. There will be online worship available from Stokesley and Gt Ayton during this period.

Your Sunday 'Worship Online' Services

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.

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 from 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. This will be followed by our weekly Zoom 'Feeding Station' at 11:30am. 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/19880/10-jan-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH STEWARDING, WHENEVER THE CHURCH IS OPEN, PLEASE SEE DOROTHY BLAKEY – your help will be much appreciated.

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 January	2.00pm Nattering & Knitting – Please join us for a 'chinwag' & to catch-up on all the things we've been doing at home! Contact Ann Keene (keene.home@yahoo.com)
Tuesday 12th January	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 13th January	'Hymn-a-Long' with the Choir at 7.00pm. The Zoom ID is 288 056 7734.
Thursday 14th January	
Friday 15th January	 <p>Sadly, due to the current Lockdown, we feel that it is unsafe to encourage people to leave their homes, so we hope you will join us in a quiet prayer-time between 10am-11am from your living room. Light a candle & prayer your own personal prayers.</p>
Saturday 16th January	10.30am – Coffee Morning with a theme, on Zoom (ID 288 056 7734). Contact Mandy Robinson (mansemum01@gmail.com) 11.30am Saturday Quiz



How beautiful is this!



1 The Beeches
Stokesley

Dear friends in the Methodist Church

Thank you so much for the gift of a hand knitted angel and for the kind and thoughtful messages which accompanied it.

It means even more to me, knowing that you gave this gift to everyone in our community. What a blessing you have given us all. With my good wishes,
Cillian Dilly

TALE FROM THE GARDEN!

Living on the Hedge- There are those who think the greatest joys in gardening are to be had from colour. But if you venture into your garden now you tend to find that colour is thin on the ground. And if you have a garden boundary of fencing, that's hardly likely to provoke interest at any time of the year either. The thing to do is invest in a hedge rather than a solid boundary. Keep the fence for privacy but cultivate alongside it a 'mixed' hedge & you'll have a jollier winter. A hedge can be kept narrow, & with flowers in Spring/Summer & fruits & coloured stems in Autumn/Winter, it is seldom dull.

The Leyland Cypress, often referred to simply as 'Leylandii', makes a great hedge or screen provided it is regularly clipped - & that is the key, not only choosing a plant that suits the situation, but keeping it under control. At the centre of many neighbourhood wars, the Leyland cypress can reach great heights very quickly. It's one of the fastest growing conifers and often towers over houses and gardens. An annual clipping of the Leylandii can produce a smart outline that poses no threat to your neighbours light.

It is thought that it was created by accident in a Welsh garden nursery in the 19th century, when two species of cypress were cross-bred. When a wealthy Englishman picked up a cone from the ground on his estate and thought he would sprout a few seeds, he did not know he would end up unleashing perhaps the most polarizing garden plant ever grown.

Trees are some of the most potent symbols in the natural world. When it comes to cypress trees in particular, their height and distinct pyramid-like shape seeming to point to the sky, makes them lofty symbols of concepts associated with the heavens, such as immortality and hope. Cypress tree symbolism also travels a darker path as the tree is one of the oldest symbols of mourning. The cypress tree is also sacred to some practitioners of Christianity who believe the cypress was the source of wood for the crucifixion. As a potent reminder of life and death, the cypress tree stands between the worlds, literally and figuratively pointing toward immortality and hope as a powerful response to human mourning.

So at this time of National Lockdown, when we mourn for those lost, for things sacrificed, for things taken away from us, for things we cherish made so difficult to have & hold, remember that Jesus came to be our link between heaven & earth. He wants us to keep looking upwards, stay hopeful & walk forward into this New Year with fresh resolve that all will be well. We might be living life on the 'hedge', but we've got lots to look forward to - be glad!