

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 Ourselves & Others

Resurrection God, to you this Easter Day we bring our prayers for those whose lives touch ours however constantly or fleetingly, for all are your children and for all of them you gave your life and this day give your rising. We, with the world's people, have travelled a tough and painful pandemic year, sharing burdens, pains, fears, confusion, anger and death, and through it all you have walked with us.

#### Resurrection God, we pray.

For those who have struggled with their journey through the past year; for those who have struggled to simply hold life together, emotionally or financially; for those who have worked tirelessly through the year to provide us with the care we need across the health services and beyond; or all those who are grieving the loss of family or friends whether through Covid or not.

#### Resurrection God, we pray.

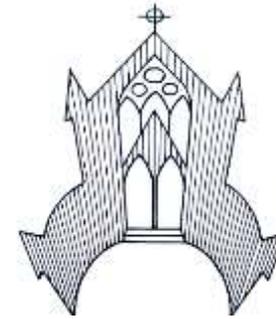
For all people of faith, especially at this Eastertide, striving for peace and companionship, striving for harmony and meaning; for those who we wish we could be with on this Easter Day, for our family members and friends who are far away.

#### Resurrection God, we pray.

Lord Jesus, thank you for promising to be with us always. Help us to remember that promise when we don't feel brave enough to be your disciples. Help us to remember that the first people to know that you rose from the tomb were ordinary people like us, women and men who didn't feel very brave. Give us courage to believe and to tell others – as Mary did – this Easter and always. **Hallelujah, Halleluia, Amen**

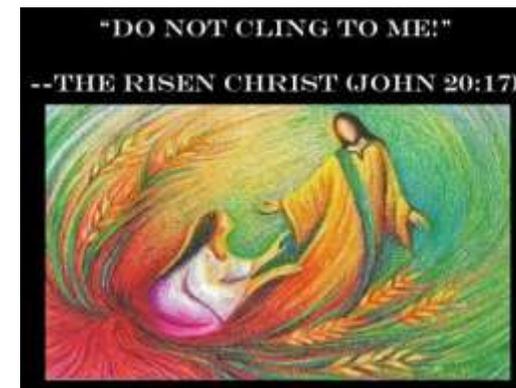
All contributions for future notices & items of interest for the Church Website are welcome! Please contact Lesley Jackson on [brackenjack@btinternet.com](mailto:brackenjack@btinternet.com) or **telephone 01642 714384** or **Text on 07837178938**. All notices must be received by the Thursday before the following Sunday. Many thanks.

# Stokesley Methodist Church



**Sunday 4th April 2021**

**Easter Sunday**



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)

The website address is [www.stokesleymethodistchurch.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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 Easter Sunday Service at 10.30am will be led by Rev Andrew Robinson & will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion*

[www.youtube.com/stokesleymethodistchurch/live](https://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:**

In our mind's eye, we behold our feet in sandals, heads bowed in sorrow as we walk a dusty path in cool morning air.

Ahead of us looms the tomb. We lift our eyes to face the cold stone at its mouth, the boundary between life and death.

But it is not there – the boundary has been breached. He is risen! Alleluia!

God of resurrection, ever renewing, ever reviving, we adore you for your life-giving presence. Son of Man, newly risen, sorrow made joy, we adore you for your sacrificial living and dying. Holy Spirit, breezing among us this Easter morn, we adore you for breathing new life into us.

**Amen.**

## *Touching Points*

### **Today's Lectionary Readings:**

**Acts 10 v34-43** (p1104) Peter at Cornelius' House

**Psalms 118 v1-2, 14-24** (p616) Shouts of joy & victory resound in the tents of the righteous

**1 Corinthians 15 v1-11** (p1155) The Resurrection of Christ

**John 20 v1-18** (p1089) The Empty Tomb/Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

### Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



This week we enter the mystery of Easter. This familiar passage from John's Gospel recounts the joy and mystery of the first Easter morning. It happens at a time of great uncertainty for the followers of Jesus.



With their teacher dead, the disciples must have felt adrift. In their grief, three visit Jesus' tomb and find him gone. Two leave, believing the body has been taken, but Mary remains, perhaps looking for something to hold onto in this time of upheaval, and Jesus is revealed to her. She runs to tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive.

Easter is one of the times during the year when, through our church communities, we have an opportunity to reach out to many people. It is a touching point between the secular (social, commercial) and sacred worlds. It offers a chance to step into the Easter story, and to explore the truth of this wonderful mystery that is at the very heart of the Christian story.

This week we've all been experiencing some happy surprises with the relaxing of Lockdown restrictions. Friends & family we haven't seen for a long time have come to visit, perhaps your family sprung a surprise belated birthday party for you in the back garden, or maybe you met your new grandchild for the first time. Probably the biggest surprise in all of history occurred to Mary Magdalene. She is a woman who knew Jesus and she was very sad when he died.

Can you imagine what a surprise it must have been for Mary to see Jesus again after he had died? Jesus said to Mary, **"Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (20:17).**

At Easter time this is the happy surprise that we talk about – that Jesus rose from the dead and went to be with God in heaven. This is the happy surprise that makes us Christians. This is the happy surprise of God's love.



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 have now re-opened for worship & you can return to church safely (see guidelines later in these notices). We will continue to provide online worship from Stokesley and Gt Ayton for those who prefer to worship from home.

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:

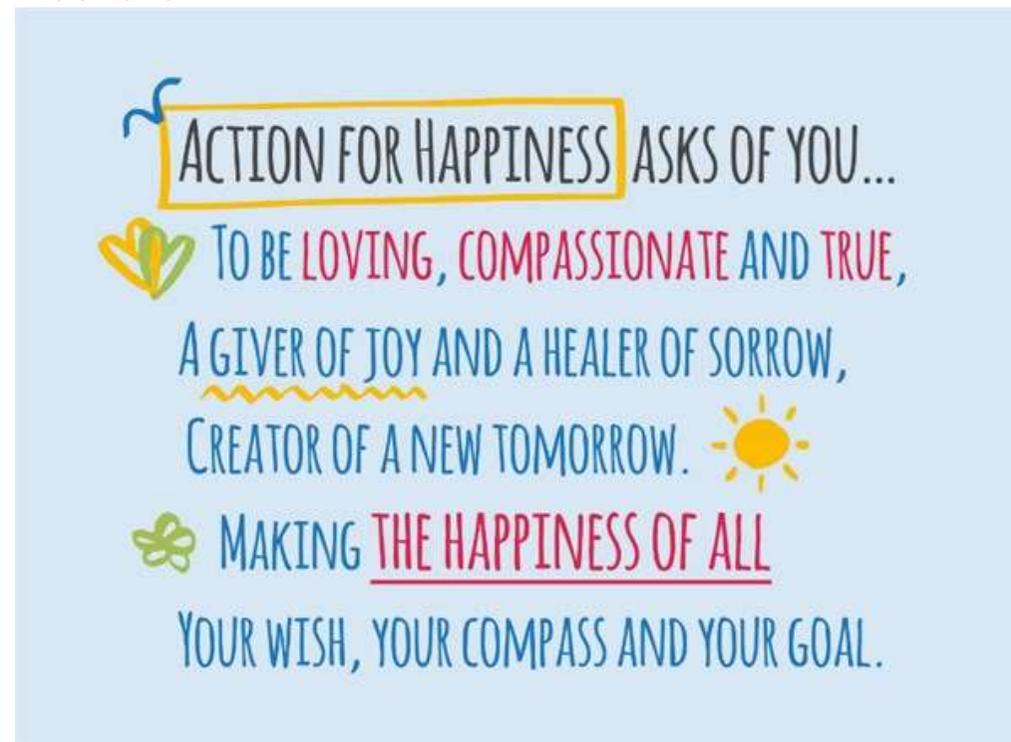


On this page you will find the links to any recorded services provided by the ministers or local preachers for the coming Sunday. Rev Andrew Robinson will be streaming his morning worship on Sunday from 10.30am on the [Stokesley Methodist Church YouTube channel](#) (use Google search).

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. 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/20779/4-april-21-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

**Action for Happiness** is a movement of people committed to building a happier and more caring society. We want to see a fundamentally different way of life - where people care less about what they can get just for themselves and more about the happiness of others. "Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions".  
- Dalai Lama



Surely at Easter, this is what Jesus would ask of us at His Resurrection. This month the theme is **ACTIVE APRIL**. Now that we can, we're encouraged to get active, get outdoors and take care of our body! We don't all need to run marathons - there are simple things we can all do to take care of our bodies – for example unplugging from technology, getting outside and - importantly - making sure we get enough sleep! Let's reap the benefits of getting our bodies moving and breathing more deeply as a result of exercising, laughing and even singing! As the Church takes a 'holiday' from its usual activities, why don't we take the time to Bee-Active, Bee-Healthy & Bee-Happy (read this month's Mousey Moment on the Church Website!).  
[https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/997794/april\\_2021.jpg](https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/997794/april_2021.jpg)

Saturday 10th April	10.30am – Coffee Morning on Zoom (ID 288 056 7734). Contact Mandy Robinson ( <a href="mailto:mansemum01@gmail.com">mansemum01@gmail.com</a> ) 11.30am Saturday Quiz
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## Arrangements for 'in-person' services at Stokesley Methodist Church

Despite the rapid rollout of the covid-19 vaccines it is likely to be sometime before we are able to return to services as normal. In the meantime, we will continue with arrangements that were in place in the Autumn:

- ✓ Numbers of people attending worship will be limited to help maintain safe social distancing. To help address this we will also be 'streaming' the service live on YouTube as it happens. It may well be that many people prefer to watch a service from their own home. See below for more information about how to book your seat.
- ✓ In line with legislation, you will need to wear a face covering while in the church building for worship.
- ✓ We will need to record your name and contact details to support the 'track and trace' initiative & to help control the spread of the virus.
- ✓ There will be strict 'one-way' system in operation and you will need to follow the steward's instructions about how and when you can move around the building and where you can sit.
- ✓ Unfortunately, we cannot allow any singing by the congregation.
- ✓ Toilet facilities will be available for those 'emergencies'.
- ✓ Refreshments will not be available and, at the close of the service, you will need to leave the building immediately following the directions of one of the church stewards.
- ✓ Hand sanitising stations are available at the entrance and exit of the building.

If you wish to attend a service at Stokesley Methodist Church on a Sunday morning you will need to 'book' your place. This is so that we can make sure that we don't exceed safe numbers of people in the building. To book your seat please contact Alison Dumphy-Brook, Circuit Support Manager for Stokesley Methodist Circuit ([a.dumphybrook@gmail.com](mailto:a.dumphybrook@gmail.com) or mobile 07717 503761).



## TALE FROM THE GARDEN!

During the Easter season, homes and churches alike are adorned with the gorgeous, fragrant white blooms we call Easter lilies. The Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) is a perennial bulb with large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers that have a wonderful perfume. This plant is called the Easter lily due to its role as a traditional Easter-time symbol. They are traditional symbols of hope and purity during the Easter holiday season.



Often referred to as "white-robed apostles of hope," their colour symbolizes the purity of Christ, who was free from sin. In many paintings, the angel Gabriel is depicted as handing Mary white lilies, which symbolizes her purity as well.

The trumpet shape of the Easter lily represents a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus has risen, and the nature in which lilies grow is symbolic of the resurrection too. From ugly bulbs that are underground for three years or longer, they become beautiful flowers. This process is reminiscent of Jesus's brutal death and holy resurrection. Thus, lilies represent rebirth and hope, just as the resurrection does in the Christian faith. It is also supposed that Easter lilies grew where Jesus's tears and blood fell from the cross, and lilies were supposedly found in the Garden of Gethsemane after the crucifixion, tying them even closer to the Easter holiday.

In Matthew 6 Jesus says, "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these."

The following poem by Louise Lewin Matthews captures the spiritual essence of the Easter Lily:

"Easter morn with lilies fair, Fills the church with perfumes rare,  
As their clouds of incense rise, Sweetest offerings to the skies.  
Stately lilies pure and white, Flooding darkness with their light,  
Bloom and sorrow drifts away, On this holy hallow'd day.  
Easter Lilies bending low, in the golden afterglow,  
Bear a message from the sod, To the heavenly towers of God."