

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)

THANK YOU

On behalf of the family we would like to say a big thank you for all the kindness we have received, through prayers, flowers, cards, baking, phone calls etc. following Steve's sudden death,

Steve's funeral took place at Kirkleatham Crematorium last Wednesday led by Rev Andrew when friends paid tribute to "a great guy who would do anything for anybody, never happier than when he was with Jayne & the boys".

Some measure of the respect he was held in has been demonstrated by the response to a donation page in lieu of flowers to support Stokesley Projects in memory of him, including the refurbishment of the War Memorial, with over 200 donations from all ages, amounting to over £7,000.

He will be sadly missed by us all,
Alan & Helen

A Prayer for Ourselves & Others

Almighty God, we pray for the needs of the people and situations that are around us, the people and situations that play on our minds and stretch demands on us; that frighten and confuse us; that bewilder and perplex us.

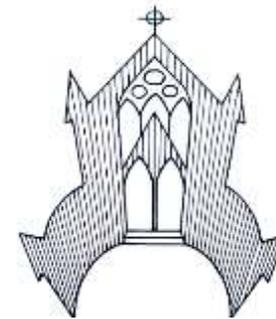
We pray for people we don't understand or comprehend; for those who make us ashamed because of their words and their deeds; for those who carry the burdens of illness and injury; for those who carry the scars of prejudice and injustice; for those who feel unloved, uncared for, unwanted, unknown; for those who are abused, neglected and cast aside; for those who see no way to change their future, who see no hope, who share no love, who know no joy; for those empty with grief and bereft without their soul mates.

May your love reach out to all these for whom we pray. As we go out into your world, help us to live a life that reflects your love, by being a friend to others.

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 9th May 2021



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/>

Alison Dumphy-Brook, Circuit Support Manager for Stokesley Methodist Circuit
(stokesleymethodistcircuit@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 Morning Worship is at 10.30am & is led by
Rev Trevor Haigh from Marske-by-Sea*

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.



Today's flowers are a gift from Sandra Markwick

A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:

Jesus said: 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.' So, let us join together as friends, Jesus' friends, to worship and serve the one who, because of his great love, gave his all for us.

Lord Jesus, we come from separate houses, from one street and another. We may have come with others, we may have come alone; but we all come as neighbours and friends. We come as different but equal. We come to worship you, our 'Ultimate Friend', and to commit ourselves afresh to one another and to you.

May we learn today how to extend that friendship to your people in all the world. May we live as Jesus lived, serve as he served, and love as he loved, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Friends

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Acts 10 v44-48 (p1104) Peter at Cornelius' House

Psalms 98 (p603) Sing to the Lord a new song ...

1 John 5 v1-6 (p1228) Faith in the Son of God

John 15 v9-17 (p1083) 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.'

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



This week our readings explore what Jesus means by friendship. Jesus encourages the disciples to keep his commandments and, above all, to love one another as he loved them. He says that those who do this are his friends and he emphasises that this is his choice rather than theirs.

People live in all kinds of houses. In the northern regions of the world people once lived in houses made of ice. In other parts of the world people live in houses made of grass. In areas where it is warm, people live in houses that don't have windows or doors. Other people live in houses that are built in trees and still others are quite comfortable using a tent as a house. You live in a house. It may be large or small, an apartment or bungalow, a cottage or terrace.

Whatever type of house, the important thing is that you feel "at home." Your home is the place where you feel happy, loved, safe and protected.

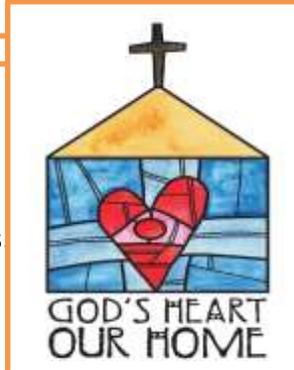
In the Bible Jesus says, "**Remain in my love**" (John 15:9). Imagine God's love as the place where you live – somewhere you can go when you feel frightened or unloved – a place where you can pray, say thanks, or ask for help. God's love is like a house that shelters you and makes you feel loved and protected.

As we enjoy our own homes it is good to think about all the other places where we can live in God's love – we are surrounded by God's love at Church, in the countryside, at the top of a mountain, in the shed at the bottom of the garden. Do you ever have bad days? Those days when nothing seems to go right? At times we all must deal with problems and difficulties. What are we to do?

The Bible teaches us that "this is the victory that has overcome the world: even our faith" (1 John 5 v4). Our faith is our belief in God. God has given us rules to live by; rules to help us have a better life. These rules, which ask us to love God and love others, are not difficult when we accept God's love and use it to help us solve our problems.

No matter the size of your problems, God's love is constant; it is always with you. When you are filled with God's love you will make good choices and figure out ways to be happy and experience joy.

This is Christian Aid Week, whose slogan in 2020 was: '**Love never fails. But love unites us all.**'



TALE FROM THE GARDEN!

The violet glow of a bluebell wood is an incredible wildflower spectacle. To wander through a bluebell wood at this time of the year must rank as one of the highlights of nature's calendar. One of the pleasures of bluebells is their individual beauty: graceful, arching stems bearing delicate bells of deep colour. But when those single splashes of blue multiply to form dreamy pools of thousands of plants, fresh pleasures await. The colour and scent intensify and there is a delicious, extravagant sense of abundance after the barren winter months.



In Victorian times, flowers were given their own special meanings. The bluebell stood for humility (thinking of others before yourself). There can be a lot of confusion that surrounds humility. Often, humility is associated with quietness, submission and thoughts of inadequacy. But, what does the Bible actually say about it?

Humility means submission, but not grovelling ... God's Word tells us that, as Christians, we are to submit to one another in lowliness of mind. "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.'" (1 Peter 5 v5)

Humility does not mean that we are silent, or passive people ... "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment ... Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle & quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." (1 Peter 3 v3-4) but we are not to be "...lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord." (Romans 12 v11)

Humility means we use our talents and capabilities ... "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory & the power for ever & ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4 v10-11)

Humility is the key to progress ... "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up." (James 4 v10) Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. He humbled himself & became obedient to death – even death on the cross." (Philippians 2 v7-8) If we are of this same humble mind-set, forsaking our own reputation and honour in order to be obedient to God's word and will, being humble & lowly of heart, we will be able to make unbelievable progress in our Christian lives!



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 the guidelines 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. Today's Morning Worship will be streamed live 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/21285/9-may-21-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

Arrangements for 'in-person' services at Stokesley Methodist Church



- ✓ 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. However, we have a capacity to seat up to 55 people so it will no longer be necessary to pre-book.
- ✓ In line with legislation, you will **need to wear a face covering**.
- ✓ We have a list of regular attenders, plus contact details, so it will only be necessary to record your **name and contact details** to support the 'track and trace' initiative & to help control the spread of the virus if you are new to church or visiting for the first time.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ When inside the church, visitors **must not mingle** with anyone outside of their household or support bubble. This includes stopping to have a chat with friends before or after the service.
- ✓ Unfortunately, **we cannot allow any communal singing** by the congregation.
- ✓ Similarly, all prayers, devotions or meditations will be led by the Minister or Local Preacher & it is strongly advised that you follow the words in your thoughts rather than out loud. The congregation **should not participate in any activity that can create aerosols**, such as chanting & vocalizing.
- ✓ Toilet facilities will be only 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.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 10th – 16th May 2021: CLIMATE CRISIS

Climate change hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means many people in the Third World are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

What's On this week

Monday 10th May	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 11th May	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 12th May	'Hymn-a-Long' with the Choir at 7.00pm. The Zoom ID is 288 056 7734.
Thursday 13th May	
Friday 14th May	Prayer time at home from 10am until 11am
Saturday 15th May	10.30am – Coffee Morning with a theme, on Zoom (ID 288 056 7734). Contact Mandy Robinson (mansemum01@gmail.com) 11.30am Saturday Quiz

Please note – There will be no Communion Service at 9am on Sunday 23rd May. However, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be part of the service at 10.30am led by Rev Andrew Robinson.
There is no need to pre-book – just come along.