

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

Loving God we bring into your tender care all families in which there is discord. Bring healing to broken relationships and reconciliation to those who feel hurt. Help us all to accept the variety of family models which make up our world and not to judge one another.

God of all families, **bring wholeness and peace.**

Loving God we pray for those who grieve a loved one especially those who have been killed. We remember the family of Sabina Nessa and all those whose loved ones have been victims of street violence. We pray that all people will respect one another and that everyone may be able to walk the streets in safety.

God of all families, **bring wholeness and peace.**

Loving God we thank you for the family of nations. Today we pray for the people of Germany for those negotiating to form a new government. May they rule in justice and compassion. We pray for the leaders of Afghanistan that they will respect the human rights of their citizens and foster tolerance and peace.

God of all families, **bring wholeness and peace.**

Loving God we pray for the victims of the earthquake in Crete, for those who were injured and for all whose lives and well-being have been affected. May your love give peace to those who are suffering and give vision and determination to those who seek to rebuild homes and communities.

God of all families, **bring wholeness and peace.**

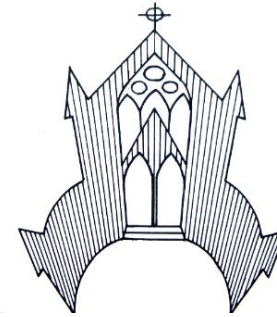
Loving God we bring to you the crisis concerning gas prices and its impact on our communities. We pray for those who are concerned that increased gas prices will reduce them to food poverty. Guide the companies and the government that a fair and equitable conclusion may be reached. Comfort and strengthen those who are worried about their future.

God of all families, **bring wholeness and peace.**

Loving God, unite us as your family: may the stronger offer support, the wealthier share what they have, the church offer hope and all your children live together in peace. God of all, in your name we pray.

Amen

Stokesley Methodist Church



Sunday 3rd October 2021



Minister: Rev Andrew Robinson

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

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

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

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(stokesleymethodistcircuit@gmail.com or Church Office tel: 01642 713130).

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 Harvest Festival & All-Age Worship is 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.



Today's flowers are a gift from the Church for our Harvest display

A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:

Lord Jesus, we praise and worship you.

We look forward to learning more about you & what you show us about living together as your people. Help us to respond with our hearts & minds & lives to your invitation to come & be drawn closer to you.

Lord God, we don't always want to accept that we have an inner child. One that longs to skip & dance with you. As we come to you, we pray that you will take away all our stuffiness & self-importance. Then we will be able to come freely into your presence with a childlike spirit & rejoice in your goodness and love. **Amen**

Let Them Come To Me

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 2 v18-24 (p5) Adam and Eve

Psalms 8 (p546) 'You made him ruler over the works of your hands ...'

Hebrews 1 v1-4; 2 v5-12 (p1201) The Son Superior to Angels/Jesus Made Like His Brothers

Mark 10 v2-16 (p1014) Divorce/The Little Children and Jesus

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



This week the Lectionary readings explore who or what matters to God. Some Pharisees test Jesus by asking about divorce. In response, Jesus honours the ideal of marriage and the equality of both partners. When the disciples try to stop people bringing children to Jesus, he says that the kingdom of God involves childlike acceptance.

Jesus' way is invitational; he invites everyone to come to him, including children, and to be shown the love of God. This week's passages help us to look at relationships between God and his creation, men and women, children and society, and to think about who and what matters to God and how we show that through the words and actions of Jesus and the attitudes of society.

I wonder if anyone can remember the days when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989? It was a very solid wall dividing the German city of Berlin, preventing people from East Berlin crossing to the west. Soldiers patrolled the wall and shot anyone trying to cross it. It became a symbol of fear, of control, of deprivation, of separation. It took away the freedom of those who wanted to move from the east to the west. The wall existed for 38 years – but then, and rather suddenly, people were allowed to cross freely. Some climbed on the wall with hammers and picks and began breaking the wall down. It was demolished very soon after. It was a very real physical barrier and it was quite a shock and a surprise when, almost overnight, it fell.

Barriers exist to keep things in or out. They force separation. The disciples in this week's Gospel story acted as barriers when they tried to keep the children from Jesus. Whatever their reasons, Jesus rebuked them. Does this help us to reflect on barriers that exist today that might prevent people from meeting Jesus? For example, is there anything in our church or community rules, our attitudes, our presumptions about what Christians are like, or which people might not be suitable to mix with, that could – or do – create barriers?

'Let the little children come to me.' Try replacing the word 'children' with 'homeless', 'depressed', 'hurting', 'unloved' and many, many more. Are we are doing all that we can to make sure everyone has the opportunity to meet and be welcomed by Jesus?

Dates for your Diary

TODAY at 7.15pm – Teesside Music Society Concert featuring the Brodsky String Quartet. Tickets £15, available on the door (£4 under-19's)

Monday 4th October – HARVEST SUPPER @ 6.00pm, tickets £7 from Pauline Rowell & Ann Keene

Tuesday 5th October – MWiB/Network @ 2.30pm. Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship & refreshments.

Thursday 7th October – Classical Cleveland presents an afternoon concert at 1.30pm featuring **Giulia Contaldo** on the piano. Tickets: £9 on the door. Light lunches will be served in the Church Hall from midday.

Friday 8th October – SHOPPERS SERVICES ARE BACK! We look forward to seeing you @ **10.00am**. The service will be led by Rev Andrew Robinson.

Wednesday 13th October 13th @ 2pm – U3A with returning speaker Andy Wilson, Research Engagement Manager, Yorkshire Cancer Research. Subject - "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" - We will hear about an amazing medical discovery and subsequent impact on research which has saved millions of lives worldwide .

This will be the first physical monthly Speaker Meeting in Stokesley Methodist Church since the pandemic began in 2019. Some important COVID related information - We will enter via the main front doors; Hand sanitiser will be available; It is requested that masks are worn until you are seated; A Register will be compiled and retained for Track and Trace purpose; Windows will be open to allow circulation of fresh air; Refreshments will not be available; Everyone will exit through the small hall and side doors - previously used as the entrance.

TODDLERS GROUP every Tuesday during term time, 9.30am-11.00am.

We are delighted to let you know that the Toddlers Group has been hugely successful with at least 15 families (including some dads!) taking part in each session & new families arriving each week. For many, this is the first opportunity their children have had to share some play-time with other children due to the isolation caused by Lockdowns & it is wonderful to watch them all having fun, learning to share & making new friends. It would be great if these young families could meet some of our own church family (it may lead to some of them coming to church for worship & more!) so if you have time, please pop in to say 'hello' – you will be very welcome!



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

To access today's Youtube streamed service follow the instructions below:
Open your internet search engine/tab > enter '<https://www.youtube.com>' (or simply 'youtube' to find the link) in the search bar > when Youtube opens, enter 'Stokesley Methodist Church Youtube' in the search bar > Our Youtube channel should open with all the recent services, mostly, but not always in date order, starting with the most recent.

If you want to follow the service from Great Ayton **enter 'Great Ayton Methodist Church Youtube'** instead.

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/23163/3-october-21-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

OUR PRAYER TREE - If anybody has a person or situation that you would like us to pray for, simply write your request on a 'leaf' and hang it on the tree. The leaves will be gathered at the end of each week and passed to the person leading worship on Sunday morning to add to the prayers of intercession during the service.

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



As the end of summer nears, the Government has set out plans for tackling the COVID-19 virus during the autumn and winter periods. At this stage, the Methodist Church does not see a need to change its overall guidance as outlined in July. Whilst always adhering to government advice, we are still urging some caution for the sake of others in the church, community and for self-care. We will continue with the positive changes that have been made during the pandemic & look to improve on these as a means of giving everyone within and outside the church continued access to worship, teaching and support during this period of transition and change. The emphasis is on 'personal responsibility' & making 'informed' local decisions.

- ✓ Please do not come to church if you feel unwell or suspect you might have Covid 19.
- ✓ Face coverings are advised but not compulsory when in church. We ask that you wear your mask on entry until seated. Please use the hand sanitiser as you arrive & leave.
- ✓ You may enter & leave by the front door, but please be aware of others to avoid congestion.
- ✓ The rows of seating are safely spaced. There are no social distancing rules, although the risks to those deemed vulnerable need to be considered.
- ✓ Please deter from shaking hands and hugging others. The virus is still very active and everyone needs to take care.
- ✓ Communal singing is possible once more, though wearing of a covering whilst singing is advised.
- ✓ The services will still be live streamed, so if you are still nervous about coming to church, or simply can't manage for 10:30, it will be available on-line.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

What's On this Week

Monday 4th Oct	9.30am - Fitness Class (Hall) 2.00pm - Knit & Natter is now meeting IN CHURCH – Please join us for a 'chinwag' & to catch-up on all the things we've been doing at home! 6.00pm – Harvest Supper 7.15pm - Zumba (Hall)
Tuesday 5th Oct	9.30am - Toddlers Group (Church) 2.30pm - MWiB/Network - Tea & Cake & Fellowship 5.00pm - Fireplace Youth Club (Hall)
Wednesday 6th Oct	6.15pm - Fitness Class (Hall) 6.30pm - Choir Practice
Thursday 7th Oct	12 noon – Pre-concert Lunches served in Church Hall 1.30pm - Classical Cleveland Afternoon Concert 6.00pm - Tang Soo Do Martial Arts Class (Hall)
Friday 8th Oct	10.00am – Shoppers' Service
Saturday 9th Oct	10.00am – 11.30am Coffee Morning in Church

*On Sunday 10th October our
Morning Worship is at 10.30am
& we welcome Ron Kirk from
Great Ayton*



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.