

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)

Prayers for Others & Ourselves

In the darkness of winter, and in anticipation of Christ's coming, we pray.

Come, O come, Emmanuel.

To all who lead us: those who make plans that shape our lives and our communities, give courage. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

To all who support us: those who are there when we need them, give courage. **Come, O come, Emmanuel.**

To all who are in need: the sick and the suffering, the poor and the hungry, the lost, the lonely and those in despair, give courage.

Come, O come, Emmanuel.

To your Church: awaiting your coming to transform the world, give courage.

Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lord, your birth transcends all time,

and unites heaven and earth in prayer and praise.

As you reached out for us in our need of a saviour, may we reach out beyond our comforts and privileges to embrace the needs of all people today.

As we remember those in and through whom your love was revealed at Bethlehem,

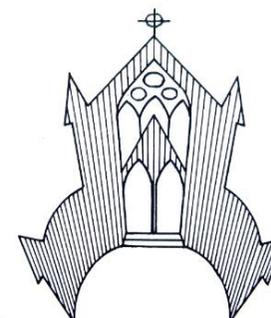
help us to make Christmas a time of prayer and action for the world's poor and vulnerable.

We remember especially (... name you own names ...)
and we entrust them 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 28th November 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 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 'Advent Praise' Morning Worship is at 10.30am
& will be led by Rev Andrew Robinson*

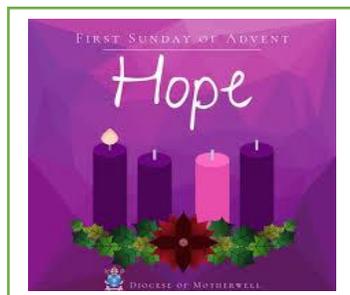
www.youtube.com/stokesleymethodistchurch/live

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

and <http://www.facebook.com/stokesleymethodistcircuit/>

First Sunday in Advent

*Today's flowers are a gift from
Dorothy Agar*



A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:

As we light our first Advent candle, may its flame be for us a sign of hope; may its warmth be a symbol of God's love for us & may it inspire us to be hope bearers – people of compassion and integrity, as we gather in the name of Jesus who is the light of the world.

God of mystery, we have stepped into Advent & await your revelations. We have stepped into Advent, hoping that we & others will see & feel & know your message. You are a patient, persevering God, who offers your all for us; you offer to us the depth of your being, the essence of life, the gift of love beyond compare.

And we wait to celebrate again the gift of Jesus born for us, given for us. We look to you, for you will show us true life bursting forth. **Amen**

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 33 v14-16 (p796) Promise of Restoration

Psalms 25 v1-10 (p556) To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul ...

1 Thessalonians 3 v9-13 (p1187) Timothy's Encouraging Report

Luke 21 v25-36 (p1057) Signs of the End of the Age

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



This week the Lectionary readings explore looking for small signs of hope. The Gospel reading is set in Holy Week, a day or two before the arrest of Jesus. He had caused uproar in the Temple and spoken to the crowds. Both sets of religious leaders, the Sadducees and the Pharisees, tried to trap Jesus in arguments. At first glance this passage can seem full of big, threatening images.

Yet, if we keep reading, we see the signs of hope: the buds on the tree heralding summer; the signs of God's kingdom; and the encouragement to 'stand up and lift up your heads' (v28).

All four readings offer signs of hope: Jeremiah talks of the justice and righteousness that will lead to a life of safety for God's followers; 1 Thessalonians tells of the joy felt when in fellowship with fellow believers; Luke writes of hope as green shoots after winter; and Psalm 25 opens with the phrase 'To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.' We still sing songs today, thousands of years later, about lifting our souls to God.

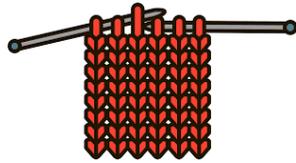
Sometimes it can be hard to see the joy that awaits, that will come in time. But even in the most hostile of environments, there are signs of life. Indeed, life often needs a tough start in order to grow. Perhaps it's the same for us, too. In tough times, we need to look for those little signs of hope.

In the Northern Hemisphere, we are approaching the darkest time of our year. At the same time, today we light the first of our Advent candles – a reminder that a light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not, and never will, overcome it. And each Sunday of Advent we will light another candle, and the light that holds so much promise will become stronger each week – culminating in the hope that is Christ's birth.

In dark days, we wait and watch and hope – and our hope will not be in vain. As we start this time of Advent, remember that, in the midst of it all, ordinary people are going about their ordinary lives and encountering the holy, the truthful and the wonderful. There are **wonders** and there are **signs** – to use two words beloved of Luke, whose Gospel we will journey with in the new church year. Some are spectacular and some are remarkable for their ordinariness. 'It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness & thus to open doors of hope.' Pope Benedict XVI

THANK YOU

An enormous thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Fair a huge success – all the setter-uppers & tidy-uppers, all the makers & bakers, all the stall-holders & table-servers, all the comers & goers, all the shoppers & spenders, & especially to Father Christmas for visiting us on this special day! Well done everyone!



CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

If you've been busy at home knitting squares for our large knitted Christmas Tree, a quick reminder that all squares need to be returned to church by **December 8th**. You can also give them to Ann Keene or Pauline Rowell. After Christmas the squares will be joined together to make blankets for those in need. Many thanks!

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 2nd December @ 1.30pm – Classical Cleveland presents an afternoon concert featuring Zany Denyer (piano). Ticket £9.00 available at the door & online via TicketSource. The programme includes music by Brahms, Beethoven & Prokofiev. Lunches served from mid-day in aid of church funds. Doors to concert open at 1:00pm.

Sunday 5th December – Welcome Service for our New members, followed by Sunday Lunch (see Ann K or Pauline R).

Tuesday 7th December @ 2.30pm – MWiB/Network All ladies are welcome to join us for an afternoon of fellowship with tea & cake!

Saturday 11th December – Christingle Service @ 5.00pm. Weather permitting, we hope this will take place on the Church steps so that we can give out 'Make-Your-Own' Christingle bags!

Sunday 12th December @ 7.15pm – Teesside Music Society presents the Mithras Piano Trio featuring Dominic Degavino (piano) & his fellow trio players. The programme includes music by Haydn, Faure & Dvorak. You can buy tickets via www.ticketsource.co.uk/teesside-music-society or at the door: Adult Single Ticket @ £15.00 / Student/Claimant Single Tickets @ £4.00 / Children free

Tuesday 14th December @ 2.00pm – SILVER SCREEN FILM SHOW



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/23506/28-nov-21-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

The central message for this advent is to be watchful and in continuous prayer. When times decide to be tough and perilous, we are encouraged to surrender to the will of the almighty. In the words of the hymn, will your Anchor hold....

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.

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



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 29th Nov	9.30am - Fitness Class (Hall) 2.00pm - Knit & Natter is now meeting IN CHURCH – Please join us for a 'chinwag' & bring your knitting! 7.15pm - Zumba (Hall)
Tuesday 30th Nov	9.30am – Toddlers Group (Church) 5.00pm - Fireplace Youth Club (Hall)
Wednesday 1st Dec	6.15pm - Fitness Class (Hall) 6.30pm - Choir Practice (Church)
Thursday 2nd Dec	12 noon – Pre-Concert Lunches (Hall) 1.30pm – Classical Cleveland Afternoon Concert 6.00pm - Tang Soo Do Martial Arts Class (Hall)
Friday 3rd Dec	10.00am – Shoppers' Service
Saturday 4th Dec	10.00am – Coffee Morning

On Sunday 5th December our Morning Worship is at 10.30am & Rev Andrew Robinson will lead us in our time of fellowship together. The service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion & a Special Welcome to our New Members.

Steward: Dorothy Blakey

Reader: Shirley Lee

Welcome: Elizabeth McClelland & Dorothy Townson

Flowers: Sue Cowton

