

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

The second Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to **prepare our hearts in faithful waiting**, celebrate the birth of Jesus & ready ourselves for his second coming. It's a beautiful chance to reflect on the ways prophecy has been fulfilled and to ponder what the future (promised to us through prophecies) will bring.

Advent God, you prepared your people for your coming, you gave your Word to us through prophets and priests, through stories told and retold, through the history of time, through the written word, through the spoken word, but always your word.

As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity, let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. May God's spirit transform the days leading up to Christmas into a time of holy anticipation; preparing our hearts, as we **faithfully await** the chance to celebrate the arrival of our king. Let the promise of your second coming inspire us to live with hope and purpose.

May the road we travel be smooth and straight,
every rut filled in,

every bump smoothed out,
any diversions easy to navigate,

any obstacles easy to manoeuvre round.

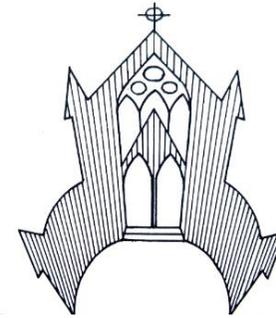
May good companions share our journey,

and may we be voices for good in the world, a sign of Jesus' love for all. We pray in Jesus' name.

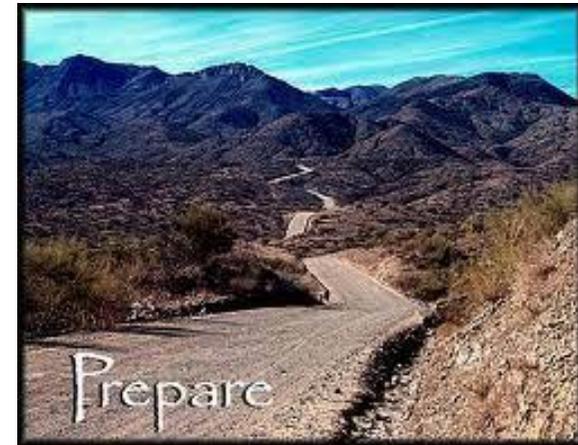
Amen.

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 5th December 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 Morning Worship is at 10.30am & will be led by Rev Andrew Robinson. The service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion & a Special Welcome to our New Members.

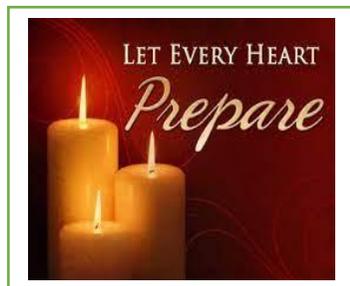
www.youtube.com/stokesleymethodistchurch/live

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

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

Second Sunday in Advent

Today's flowers are a gift from Sue Cowton



A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:

As we light our second Advent candle, may its flame be a light that shines for all to see – a sign that Jesus is for all.

May we know God's presence and power as we gather in the name of Jesus, who is the light of the world.

We come to praise you, Lord, God of Israel and all the nations.

We come to you who set your people free.

We come to you who guides us into the way of peace.

We come to you as we journey through Advent and prepare to welcome, once again, the Christ child.

Amen

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Malachi 3 v1-4 (p951) Clean Garments for the High Priest

Luke 1 v68-79 (Benedictus) (p1027) Zechariah's Song

Philippians 1 v3-11 (p1178) Thanksgiving and Prayer

Luke 3 v1-6 (p1029) John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



This week the Lectionary readings explore the signs that Jesus is for all. John the Baptist hears God's word and begins a ministry, baptizing people as a sign of repentance and telling those he meets that Jesus will be for all people. His work echoes the prophecy in Isaiah, that there will be a voice crying out to prepare the way of the Lord. Isaiah shows that Jesus' message is one of equality – not just for the rich and powerful and not just for the Jews.

Signs are important to us. They can tell us how to behave, where to go – and where not to go! A sign might tell us that the road ahead is bumpy, but probably not that it is smooth! In the second week of Advent we remember that Jesus is a sign for everyone & that, regardless of who we are or what we do, we are all equal in the sight of God.

Many will remember Captain Sir Tom, who in 2020 (for his 100th birthday) walked to raise millions of pounds for the NHS. Some may also remember hearing about Kevin Sinfield, who ran seven marathons in seven days in support of his former rugby league teammate Rob Burrow, who has motor neurone disease. Neither of them needed to do what they did, but they were compelled to do so by their love and compassion for others. John the Baptizer didn't need to go into the wilderness as he did – or did he? Perhaps love and compassion compelled him, too. Perhaps, having experienced God's love and compassion for himself, he wanted to help others see that, despite their sinful nature, God loved them all. What about us – do we have love and compassion for our friends and family, and for our neighbours, and for the people we work with, spend leisure time with – enough to let them know about Jesus? The wilderness and a stable – how different to the ways of the world: where status is so important, where the place you went to school, or university – if you went to university – is considered so important by some; where wanting to become a celebrity is the life goal of significant numbers of people. Society looks at these things, and says: the grander, the higher, the better! And if you don't have, or can't achieve these things, you lose out. But John, and Jesus, say 'No.' That is not the way. The way – the way of the Lord – takes a different path. The way of the Lord – straight, level and smooth – has no obstacles in the way, no hurdles that must be overcome; no 'grander, higher, better' to keep people out.

THANK YOU

Once more, an enormous thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas Fair a huge success, despite the blustery, wintry weather! We have made well over £1500 which will make a huge difference to our Church Funds & enable us to do great things in Jesus' name!

We have also received another 'THANK YOU' – a 'thank you' card has been received from J. Barry, our Local Honorary Organiser for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. The sum of £62.46 was collected by our church & the District total was £8066.61. Without this kind of financial help, the British Legion would be unable to continue its vital welfare & benevolent work.

Dates for your Diary

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

Friday 17th December @ 10.45am – 'Carols on the Steps'. Join us for this Festive sing-along following the Shoppers' Service. We'll be giving out Candy Canes to passers-by & having a voluntary collection for 'Action for Children'.

Sunday 19th December – Our morning worship will take the form of 'Nine Lessons & Carols', a very special celebration of the Christmas Story.

Monday 20th December @ 7.00pm – Churches Together Carols on the Green. All are invited to get wrapped up & come along to the West Green to gather round the Christmas Tree & sing carols. The Bilsdale Band will provide the music & buckets will be available for donations to the Food Bank. All being well someone from the Food Bank will attend to speak for five minutes half-way through the carols to say thank you for the donations.



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/23690/5-dec-21-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

Today, as we step into this second Sunday of Advent, we are invited even more to prepare our hearts and minds for yet another Christmas, another coming of the Christ-child.

OUR PRAYER TREE - If anybody has a person or situation that you would like us to pray for, simply write your request on a 'Christmas Star' and hang it on the tree.

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



Latest Update 26 November 2021 (Methodist Connexion Website)

“Following its monthly review of current Government guidance, the Methodist Church does not see a need to change its overall guidance as outlined previously in July and September which remain current. We would remind everyone of the need to assess their local situation and respond accordingly and proportionately.”

We will carry on with the positive changes that have been made during the pandemic & will continue to reflect carefully on the risks from the new Omicron variant & how we react to the Government advice. Our main aim is to enable everyone within and outside the church to have access to worship, teaching and support, safely & responsibly. In the meantime:

- ✓ 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 6th Dec	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 7th Dec	9.30am – Toddlers Group (Church) 2.30pm – MWiB/Network ‘Tea & Cake’ Fellowship 5.00pm - Fireplace Youth Club (Hall) 7.00pm – Circuit Meeting (Church)
Wednesday 8th Dec	6.15pm - Fitness Class (Hall)
Thursday 9th Dec	
Friday 10th Dec	10.00am – Shoppers’ Service
Saturday 11th Dec	10.00am – Coffee Morning 5.00pm – Christingle Service

On Sunday 12th December our Morning Worship is at 10.30am & Doreen Hunt will lead us in our time of fellowship together.

Steward: Joyce Binns
Reader: June McCleave
Welcome: Ernie & Winifred Laking
Flowers: Ann Keene
Coffee: Mary Hune

