

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

God of all life and all goodness, we entrust to you those places where all is not well. We pray especially for Jerusalem; for the leaders & people of Israel & Palestine; for the people of Buffalo in America; & for all places where lives have been lost to, & are threatened by, the brutality of prejudice.

We pray for Ukraine & all countries being bombed & destroyed because of the ideology of other powers & leaders; for all prisoners & casualties of war.

Where all is not well, Lord Jesus, please bring hope, please bring healing.

We pray for all those who are victimised for their ethnicity, their religion, their sexuality; for those imprisoned for speaking out & protesting against corruption – in Russia, in Belarus, in Myanmar, in Hong Kong...

We pray for the countries of NATO, & for those applying to join; for all who speak out for peace & justice: for all who work behind the scenes to bring reconciliation, stability & restraint..

Where all is not well, Lord Jesus, please bring hope, please bring healing.

In this week of Christian Aid, we pray for those places where lives are being lost to extreme temperatures, to floods and to drought – especially in India, Australia, across East Africa. We pray for places where children are starving, especially in Afghanistan, Yemen, & Ethiopia & we pray too for the hungry children of our own nation.

Where all is not well, Lord Jesus, please bring hope, please bring healing.

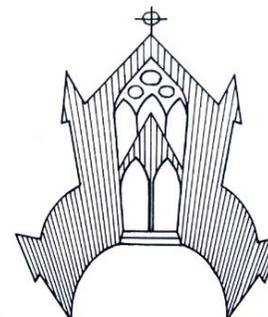
And we pray for our church & the communities we serve; we pray for one another; for our families; for our neighbours, our friends; for all who today feel sad, frightened or alone.

Where all is not well, Lord Jesus, please bring hope, please bring healing.

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 22nd May 2022



Minister: Rev Andrew Robinson

Tel: 01642 710358 Mob: 07718 516236

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/>
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.

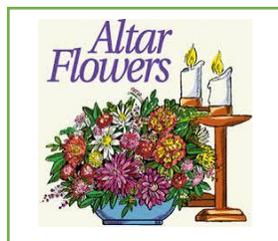
*Today our Morning Worship is at 10.30am
& is a Local Arrangement led by our worship leaders & members
of the congregation.*

www.youtube.com/stokesleymethodistchurch/live

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

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

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



A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:

Come if you're healthy, come if you're hurt.

Come if you're hopeful, come if you're sad.

Let God's light shine upon you. Let God's life fill you.

Let God bring you healing and hope today.

God of light and life, you see all our problems and our pains: help us to open our hearts and minds to you, to receive your healing and forgiveness, and to learn how we can bring hope and healing to others.

Let us be glad and sing for joy, lifting praises to our Gracious God whose light shines upon us.

Amen

All Shall Be Well

Today's Lectionary Readings:

Acts 16 v9-15 (p111) Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia/Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

Psalms 67 (p581) May the Nations be glad & sing for joy

Revelation 21 v10 & 21 v22-22 v5 (p1249) The New Jerusalem/The River of Life

John 5 v1-9 (p1068) The Healing at the Pool

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



This week our Lectionary readings explore visions of hope and healing. The passage from Revelation is John's vision of hope and healing for the world. He sees God and Jesus from the Temple in the new Jerusalem, and they are the light of the world. John sees the water of life flowing clear and bright like crystal, and the tree of life bearing fruit that will bring healing to all nations.

Together the tree, water and light give life to all things – a hopeful picture of the future for all humanity and all God's creation.

Written for Christians facing extreme persecution, the powerful imagery encouraged them to hang on to the promise that, in the end, light will triumph over darkness, hope over despair, and all people, nations – and indeed all of creation – will be healed and made whole: truly **'All shall be well'**. While this may seem far removed from our own world, there is much in our lives and in the world where God's hope and healing are needed. Today we explore how God might use us as agents of hope and healing for others. As Government ministers are coming under increasing pressure to intervene over the cost-of-living crisis, how secure do any of us feel about the future? It is pertinent that the passage from Revelation was directed at those whose lives were under threat. Reading about the tree full of fruit in season by the crystal stream, and the imagery of rest and refreshment, the contrast with today's challenges and distress could not be more stark. Is it all pie in the sky or is there a calling to all of us to be so set on this vision of beauty and healing for all that we also set our hearts on doing whatever we can to give people a taste of healing, of heavenly fruit and a drink from the crystal stream here and now? As John Bell once wrote in a challenging and provoking hymn, 'Heaven shall not wait'.

***'Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:***

***Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now; and then for evermore.'***

You might like to read the whole hymn and ponder its direct challenge to us. Rather than simply losing ourselves in wonder at the beauty of God's dwelling place, perhaps we are also invited to contemplate the work we need to do to feed the hungry and to wipe the tears from people's eyes.

A Message from the Pollitt family following the Baptism of Orley last

Sunday: "What a warm, loving and beautiful baptism for Orley today. Once again, we wish to say how utterly grateful we are to you and to Stokesley Methodist Church. Such welcoming faces and kind words. Thank you x"

Many thanks to everyone for helping Kate & Simon feel so much at home. I heard many comments afterwards of how lovely it was to hear & see children in church again! Lesley

Dates for your Diary

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15th -21st May

There are envelopes available in church **TODAY** in which you can place your donations & return to Lesley.

Many thanks to everyone who helped at, & came to, yesterday's Christian Aid Coffee Morning – all monies raised will be donated to CA.

Please pick up one of the 7-day Devotional booklets from Christian Aid which you can take home to read. The 7 reflections can be read any time & will help you to think about the things we all hunger for.

Remember Every Gift, Every Action, Every Prayer, Every One of us can change lives.

TODAY – CLEVELAND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Afternoon Concert @ 3.00pm.

Conductor - Dan Hands. The programme includes music by Elgar, Copland & Mendelssohn. Tickets £12 at the door. Under-18s free.

Thursday 2nd June @ 1.30pm – CLASSICAL CLEVELAND presents Giulia Contaldo (piano). The programme includes music by Respighi, Schumann, Mozart & Liszt-Wagner. Tickets £10 available on the door or online via TicketSource. Doors to concert open at 1.00pm.

Sunday 12th June – Afternoon Concert with the North8 Choir. 'North8' is a dynamic vocal octet based in the North of England & their programme promises to be a lively & engaging collection of vocal arrangements.

Saturday 25th June – 'FESTIVAL OF YOUTH' supported by Stokesley School & Stokesley Rotary. There will be events throughout the town, including music & performances on The Plain & in the Churches, as well as Photography & Art Exhibitions & Workshops in the Globe. Check with the library for timings. The Festival will culminate in a Youth Concert at 7pm in the Methodist Church, followed by a presentation of prizes & certificates.



SHOULD YOU NEED ANY ADVICE
PLEASE CONTACT
REV ANDREW ROBINSON (TEL:
01642 710358 / MOB: 07718
516236)

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/25721/22-may-22-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

Sometimes we present the Christian journey as one of certainty - just have faith and all will be simple and straightforward. But, over and over again, the Bible reminds us that reality isn't like that. Reality is confusing and messy and there are times when we feel lost.

We are reminded today that Paul has just lost his mentor, his home base, and his travelling companion and it takes time for him to get back on track. For a while there he's adrift and uncertain of the way to go. All he can do is put one foot in front of the other and continue, trusting that the fog will lift and that God will speak ... and so it is ... and it turns out that God was speaking and guiding him even in the fog. Life is messy and confusing but if we listen and follow one step at a time then, when we look back, we find that we were not alone even when we thought we were.

Paul carried on, on his missionary journey, & 'so the churches were strengthened in the faith & grew daily in numbers.'

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



Our main aim is to enable everyone within and outside the church to have access to worship, teaching and support, safely & responsibly, so we should continue to follow safer behaviours to protect ourselves and others:

- ✓ Please do not come to church if you feel unwell or suspect you might have Covid 19. Continue to get tested and self-isolate if needed.
- ✓ Continue to exercise good hygiene practice. Please use the hand sanitiser as you arrive & leave.
- ✓ The services will still be live streamed, so if you are still nervous about coming to church, it will be available on-line.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thursday 2nd June @ 4.00pm – JUBILEE TEA-PARTY

Our celebrations will include an Afternoon Tea with games, music & a sing-a-long! You can wear red, white & blue (optional!) & everyone is invited to make & wear a **CROWN!** Tickets cost £5. Please see Ann Keene or Pauline Rowell if you would like to come. We will also be giving everyone a special souvenir to remember this momentous occasion (going to keep it a surprise!!!!).

On **Sunday 5th June**, Jubilee weekend, our Sunday Worship is a Local Arrangement and the focus is a special 'Songs of Praise'.

We would like to ask all members of the congregation if you have any personal recollections of the Queen: including the Coronation, Royal Garden Parties, visits to Buckingham Palace, the visit the Queen made to Teesside, the Queen's 90th birthday celebration, to name a few.

If you would be willing to share your reminiscences and choose a hymn for the service, we would be very grateful. Please see Sue Frank or one of the stewards.

What's On this week

Monday 23rd May	9.30am – Zumba Gold (Hall) 10.00am – Yoga (Hall) 2.00pm – Knit & Natter (Porch) 7.15pm – Rockbox Fitness Class (Hall)
Tuesday 24th May	9.30am - Toddlers Group (Church) 4.00pm – Fireplace Youth Club (Hall)
Wednesday 25th May	9.15am – Zumba Fitness Class (Hall)
Thursday 26th May	2.00pm – Sing-a-Long with the Choir (Chapel)
Friday 27th May	
Saturday 28th May	10.00am – Coffee Morning (Chapel)

On Sunday 29th May our Morning Worship is at 10.30am & will be led by Rev Andrew Robinson. The Service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

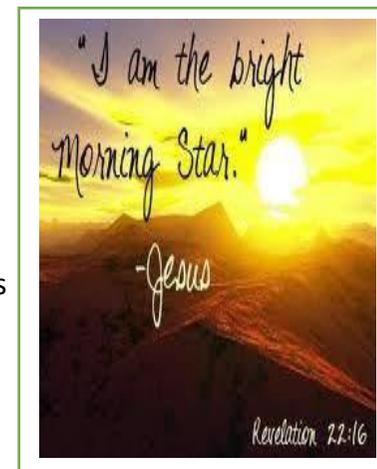
Steward: Dorothy Blakey

Welcome on the Door: Sylvia & Ian Waites

Reader: Rosemary Lincoln

Flowers: June McCleave

Coffee will be served after the service.



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