

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

Adorning the East Bay of the Galilee Chapel at the Shrine of St Bede in Durham Cathedral are these words of the Venerable Bede:

***'Christ is the morning star who when the night of this world is past brings to his saints the promise of the light of life and opens everlasting day.'***

St Bede was almost certainly influenced by the reference in Revelation chapter 22: ***'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.'***

We can picture Bede looking at the sky, in the early morning pitch darkness of Anglo-Saxon Britain, identifying Christ as the brightest star, promising and welcoming the dawn and so pointing to the greater dawn, the coming of everlasting day.

Did you know? ... 24<sup>th</sup> May was Wesley Day, when the Church Calendar commemorates Charles Wesley. Could this be one of his greatest hymns & one of the greatest hymns of all time? Could we make this our prayer this week?

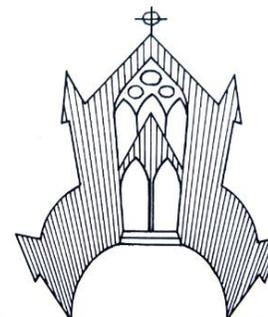
***Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night.  
Dayspring, from on high be near; Daystar in my heart appear.  
Dark and cheerless is the morn, Unaccompanied by thee;  
Joyless is the day's return, Till thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes and warm my heart.  
Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiance divine, Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.***

Here, Wesley brilliantly combines two images, that of the Morning Star and the rising sun: Dayspring and Daystar.

For Wesley, as we awake each morning - we call to mind the joy of living under God's mercy, in the light of forgiveness and grace. Without Christ, dark and cheerless is the morn, joyless is the day's return. But more than that, each new day points us forwards towards the perfect Day.

**Amen.**

# Stokesley Methodist Church



## Sunday 29th May 2022



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The website address is [www.stokesleymethodistchurch.co.uk](http://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](mailto:stokesleymethodistcircuit@gmail.com)

or Church Office tel: 01642 713130).

All contributions for future notices & items of interest for the Church Website are welcome! Please contact Lesley Jackson on [brackenjack@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

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.*

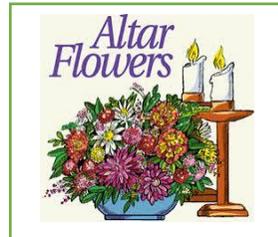
*The service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

[www.youtube.com/stokesleymethodistchurch/live](http://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  
June McCleave*



#### **A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:**

Come to God with your longings:

our heavenly Father knows them all.

Come to God with your belongings: our loving Saviour holds them all.

Come to God alone and together: the Holy Spirit is here for all.

Father God, you give us so much, and yet we long for more.

Help us to open ourselves to you today & draw us closer to you.

Help us to be open to one another & draw us closer together.

Let us come and worship the Lord Most High, who guards the lives of his faithful ones.

Let us rejoice in the Lord and praise his holy name.

**Amen**

*Coming Soon ...*

#### **Today's Lectionary Readings:**

**Acts 16 v16-34** (p1112) Paul and Silas in Prison

**Psalms 97** (p603) The Heavens proclaim his righteousness ...

**Revelation 22 v12-14,16-17,20-21** (p1250) Jesus is Coming

**John 17 v20-26** (p1085) Jesus Prays for All Believers

#### **Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!**



This week our Lectionary readings explore longing and belonging. Feelings of longing, and the need to feel we belong and are loved, are something everyone can identify with. We may long for many things, but if we belong to Jesus he can satisfy our deepest desires. John's vision in Revelations reminds us that we belong to Jesus, and that Jesus is coming soon.

Do you remember the Spice Girls & this line from their debut song: 'Tell me what you want, what you really, really want'. If Jesus asked us the same question, how might we respond? Could we name our 'real' desires and longings? The problem is that we can misunderstand what we really, really want, and look for satisfaction in the wrong places. But Jesus speaks very simply into our lives: "Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." (Rev 22 v17)

At one level, wouldn't it be great if, in one fell swoop, Jesus the king came in all his power and glory and eliminated all the evil and all the suffering in our world – all the violence, all the poverty, all the sickness, all the damage we've done to our planet? It's right and good that we should pray, 'Come, Lord Jesus!' when we look at the mess we're in, both locally and globally.

But even as we anticipate his coming, we can't just sit and twiddle our thumbs. A church poster once proclaimed, 'JESUS IS COMING!', only for a local graffiti artist to scrawl underneath in spray paint, 'LOOK BUSY!' As Jesus says in the opening words of today's reading from Revelation: 'Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.' So rather than bewail the mess we're in, let's keep praying 'Thy Kingdom Come', and let's see what small steps we can take, individually and together, to work for the coming of God's kingdom, 'on earth as in heaven'.

As we work away, we can be confident that the Spirit of Jesus will sustain us. As we anticipate Jesus' final coming for our world, we can respond to his invitation to come to him and drink: he comes to us here and now to satisfy our thirst – and to make us long for more. As Augustine (Theologist, Bishop & Saint) put it, 'I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours.' What we really, really want is ... Jesus with us!

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> May

I would like to express my sincere thanks to everyone for your generosity & kind donations. The Coffee Morning was very well supported & the stalls were a great success. The total raised from this event was £260.40 & adding on the monies collected from the envelopes, our **grand total is £495.40** plus another £55 from the Parish Church.

**Every Gift, Every Action, Every Prayer WILL change lives & WILL make a difference – THANK YOU.** Lesley

### The Methodist Church – Marriage & Relationships

Following prayerful consideration by the Church Council, we need to inform you that at our meeting last Saturday (21<sup>st</sup> May), there was a majority vote to support the following resolutions:

1. To register the church building for same-sex marriage ceremonies.
2. To consent to services of blessing for same-sex couples. This would also cover situations where members of the congregation are unable to marry in the church building (for example due to being housebound, detained or seriously ill and therefore unable to be moved).
3. To nominate the Authorised Person to be appointed by the Registrar to be present at the solemnization of same-sex marriages conducted in the church building.

We understand & respect the depth of feeling, pain and anxiety this may cause some, but in making these decisions we hope to live out the Methodist principles of Inclusivity in our Church and in our community.

### Dates for your Diary

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Please note the Classical Cleveland Concert is cancelled.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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/25723/29-may-22-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

In the world of sport, some of us would be dropped, transferred out, cast aside, replaced by someone better for the job! Thank God that this isn't the case with those who name Jesus as Lord and Saviour. There is a future to be looked to, to be worked for; the future of the kingdom fully established upon earth and in all its peoples. There is reason today for confidence and fullest hope. May we be as one, a real team, playing life for each other, for others and for Jesus Christ. As the celebration of Pentecost comes towards us may we be moved to hear afresh, to feel anew, the encouraging, the urging power and words of the Holy Spirit.

Singing the Faith 346 - Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other; born in our darkness, he became our brother. If we have seen him, we have seen the Father: glory to God on high. Christ is the world's Peace, Christ and none other; no one can serve him and despise another; who else unites us, one in God the Father? Glory to God on high.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 30th May	9.30am – Zumba Gold (Hall) 10.00am – Yoga (Hall) 2.00pm – Knit & Natter (Porch) 7.15pm – Rockbox Fitness Class (Hall)
Tuesday 31st May	4.00pm – Fireplace Youth Club (Hall)
Wednesday 1st June	9.15am – Zumba Fitness Class (Hall) 6.30pm – Choir Practice
Thursday 2nd June	4.00pm – Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea-Party
Friday 3rd June	
Saturday 4th June	10.00am – Coffee Morning (Chapel)

*On Sunday 5th June our Morning Worship is at 10.30am & will be led our Worship Leaders & members of the congregation. 'Queen's Jubilee Songs of Praise'*

**Steward:** Sue Frank

**Welcome on the Door:** Pauline & Harry Rowell

**Reader:** Chris Keene

**Flowers:** Elsie & John Edwards

**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.