

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

Loving God,

we pray for those who have difficult decisions to make today: at home, at school, at work, in the community, in government... **Holy Spirit, help them.**

We pray for those suffering the consequences of bad choices: those in prison, those burdened with guilt, those consumed by regret... **Holy Spirit, help them.**

We pray for those whose decisions are made for them: the unwell, the elderly, those in places of oppression... **Holy Spirit, help them.**

We pray for those who are paralysed by indecision: the stressed, the fearful, those whose circumstances keep changing... **Holy Spirit, help them.**

We pray for those who, at this moment, are making desperate choices: whether to flee their homes, whether to go on living, whether to tell the truth... **Holy Spirit help them – and us.**

May God grant us the wisdom to know what is important.

May God guide us to act, to do what is urgent.

May God help us to know the one we follow better each day.

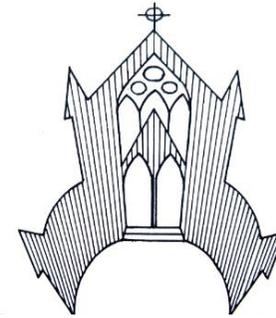
May God help us to be people who don't always look back.

May God help us always to be faithful and true.

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 26th June 2022



Minister: Rev Rob Weir

Tel: 01642 724968

Email: RobWeir@albatross.me.uk

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.

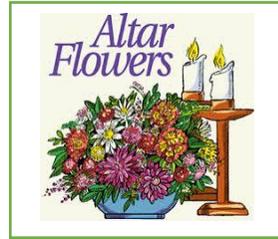
Today our Morning Worship is led by David Wilson, friend of Stokesley Methodist Church

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 Juduth Wright & Bob Jewitt



A Gathering Prayer from the Roots resources:

The time is now, the Lord is here!

He calls us in this moment. Rejoice in the fullness of his love.

We gather in the power of your Spirit, O Lord.

Give us the wisdom to live in the Spirit, and to show the fruit of the Spirit in who we are.

Make us people of love, joy and peace; make us generous and kind; and help us to shape our lives with gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Let our hearts be glad and our tongues rejoice.

When we walk in companionship with the Lord we are filled with joy in his presence.

Let us praise the Lord.

Amen

Some Things Can't Wait

Today's Lectionary Readings:

1 Kings 19 v15-16, 19-21 (p361) The Lord Appears to Elijah/The Call of Elisha

Psalms 16 (p549) Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge.

Galatians 5 v1, 13-25 (p1171) Freedom in Christ/Life by the Spirit

Luke 9 v51-62 (p1040) Samaritan Opposition/The Cost of Following Jesus

Message from the Church Mouse for EVERYONE!



This week our Lectionary readings explore how following Jesus is both important and urgent. Jesus begins a new stage of his ministry, directed towards Jerusalem. He responds to hostility with calm tolerance. He asks for absolute commitment from those who want to follow him. For many, this makes for a difficult decision as they have plenty of other priorities and distractions.

Some things in life can wait. Other things have to be dealt with immediately. The call of Jesus requires instant and wholehearted attention but that is not always easy and challenges how we consider our priorities.

Do you make 'to do' lists? Do you write things on a list and cross them off when they are done? If you can cross them off quickly it will definitely boost your morale. But some might take longer than others. Why do we put things off? Is it because other things are more important, or because we just don't want to do them? How would it feel if we put 'Follow Jesus today' at the top of every to do list? What would that look like in practice? In Luke 9 we read of two people making excuses to Jesus. One says he has to go and bury his father, while another wants to say his farewells to family and friends. Were they excuses or were they reasons? It may be that, in the particular circumstances of each case, Jesus knew that they were being unreasonable and that what they presented as an acceptable reason was actually simply a delaying tactic. Jesus' response is quick and clear. He will take no excuses. He appears to be saying 'Follow me now or not at all.'

It helps if we understand Jesus' urgency as being motivated by the need for prioritisation. Following Jesus should be a priority. It is too important to be put off. As a priority it demands a sense of urgency and a sense of focus. Jesus encourages his listeners to look to the future, to the kingdom that is to come rather than the past as represented by the dead or those who are being left behind. If the person ploughing does not focus on looking ahead, they are not concentrating and being a follower of Jesus requires total concentration. In Galatians (5.16), Paul commands that we 'live by the Spirit'. This is both a command and a promise. If we live by the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives. This not only encourages and enriches our lives, it also enables us to be faithful disciples who live in the present and look to the future.

SANCTUARY SUNDAY

Sanctuary Sunday is marked at the end of Refugee Week and aims to build cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in our churches.

Churches Together in Britain has published a resource to support individual Christians, Church communities and ecumenical groups in reflecting on the significance of sanctuary for our times in the context of Refugee Week.

Titled "Sanctuary: The Hospitality of Host, Guest and Stranger", & published by Churches Together in Britain, it offers reflections, prayers and ideas for action. <https://churchofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Sanctuary-Bible-Study-Revised.pdf>

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), around 90% of the world's refugees come from countries in or close to war and conflict. Wars make refugees. In the long term, the only solution to the unprecedented numbers of refugees in the world is the cessation of war and conflict, and a world without war. This is the clear lesson from the current Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Sanctuary is built on protective safety, and it challenges hostility with hospitality. In all human faith and practice, hospitality is the established way of handling difference and transcending borders and barriers, and expressing respect for the worth of people, especially those considered to be least worthy and most excluded.

An old Celtic proverb reads: It is in the shelter of each other that the people live. Human warmth and welcome and friendship are the best form of sanctuary, and we can all be sanctuary to each other.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 7th July @ 1.30pm – CLASSICAL CLEVELAND presents **ELLADA PAVLOU** on the piano. Programme includes music by Stravinsky, Scriabin, Prokofiev & Rachmaninov. Tickets £10 available at the door

Saturday 9th July @ 3.00pm

**A CONCERT OF 'C's' – The Choir sings
Choral Choices with Cake & Coffee!**

Donations to **BRIGHT RED**

(Bright Red is a charity established to improve the lives & treatment of people in the North of England who are dealing with Blood Cancer)



SHOULD YOU NEED ANY ADVICE
PLEASE CONTACT
REVD ROB WEIR
(TEL: 01642 724968 / EMAIL:
RobWeir@albatross.me.uk)
OR ONE OF THE STEWARDS

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/26084/26-june-22-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.pdf>

StF 673 Will you come and follow me?

V1 ... Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

V2 ... Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

V5 ... Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go, where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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.

Welcome to our new Circuit Support Manager

We are pleased to be able to welcome Clare Ibbotson as our new Circuit Support Manager, as of 1st June. There is also a new email address to contact Clare on Circuit Matters — 1305stokesleycircuit@gmail.com.

Clare brings the experience of her time as both a Circuit Steward, and as a Worship Leader at Hutton Rudby, to the role.

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Joan

Joan Smith's funeral is to be on Monday the 4th July at 12.30pm at Stokesley Methodist Church. Please hold Eric, David and Ruth Smith and Anne Keay in your thoughts & prayers at this difficult time.

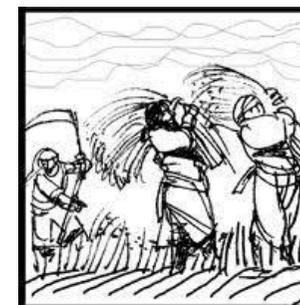
'Count Your Blessings'

Thank you to everybody who took part in the fundraising for DKMS. If anyone still has donations which they would like me to pass on to the District MWiB Treasurer, please could you let me have them as soon as possible. I will be attending a District MWiB committee on Wed 29th June and am hoping to hand over our contributions at that meeting.
Many thanks, Christine

What's On this week

Monday 27th June	9.30am – Zumba Gold (Hall) 10.00am – Yoga (Hall) 2.00pm – Knit & Natter (Chapel) 7.15pm – Rockbox Fitness Class (Hall)
Tuesday 28th June	4.00pm – Fireplace Youth Club (Hall)
Wednesday 29th June	9.15am – Zumba Fitness Class (Hall) 6.30pm – Choir Practice (Chapel)
Thursday 30th June	
Friday 1st July	
Saturday 2nd July	10.00am – Coffee Morning (Chapel)

On Sunday 3rd July our Morning Worship will be led by Christine Campy, Local Preacher from Seamer



The Harvest is Plentiful but the Workers are Few.

Steward: Dorothy Blakey

Welcome on the Door:

Sylvia & Ian Waites

Reader: Pauline Rowell

Flowers: Winifred Laking

Coffee will be served after the service – please do stay for refreshments.

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.