



CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

June / July 2020



Re-opening for Private Prayer

You may have seen in the news different announcements about when places of worship are able to reopen. Over the past few weeks we have been working to Connexional guidance which is that if we are able, we should get our churches ready to open for **private prayer from the 4th July**. The Government recently changed its advice to allow churches and other religious buildings to open for individual prayer from Saturday June 13. The Methodist Church's advice remains that churches stay closed, but it recognises that different parts of the British Isles might be at different stages and different Circuits might be at different stages. There is an appreciation that there may be those who feel their mission depends on their church being open for individual prayer.

If Managing Trustees feel they are at a point where they want to open their buildings for individual prayer, then they can do so, if government guidelines are followed. So, at the moment, we are aiming to have our churches ready for the 4th July. If any churches are ready to open before then we will let you know.

Connexion have provided us with checklists for reopening our buildings after they've been closed for such a long time. We have also been provided with Risk Assessments and guidance notes so that when we do reopen our churches, we will have done everything we can to make sure that they are a safe place to be.

Property Stewards, Church Stewards and Safeguarding Officers now have all this information and are being supported by the circuit to carry out checks, make adjustments and to make sure churches have the equipment and information to reopen safely.

There will be changes and new ways of doing things. Of course social distancing must be observed, but it might be that you enter the church through one door, but leave through a different one, or there are clear markings where you should sit.

We also plan to have the churches across the circuit open at different times on different days. **All these plans will be clearly communicated before, so you know what to expect.**

Our thanks go to those at each church who have been faithfully looking after our properties during this time and who are working hard to reopen them safely when it is time.

A message from our Circuit Treasurer, Malcolm Wilson

The Weekly Offering

With churches closed it has not been possible to collect the weekly offerings. Do we need to support the circuit and churches if they are closed?

The answer is most certainly YES.

The circuit still has to pay the ministers stipends, maintain the manses, pay the community charges, pay the telephone bills and expenses of the ministers and much more besides. The churches have to pay their assessments, their building insurance, their electricity and water bills and all the other things that treasurers deal with. As far as the circuit is concerned, all the income and expenditure is dealt with online. As far as the churches are concerned, each treasurer will advise how best to accept weekly offerings. At Carlton I am going to suggest to our members that they pay online or by cheque for the whole period, March to August, towards the end of August so that the accounts for the year can be finalised by August 31st.

The big losers in all this are charities.

We are unable to hold coffee mornings and the many other fund raising activities at present but there is nothing to stop you donating to a charity of your choice not forgetting of course Lisa's charity cycle ride on June 27th.

A message from Revd Lisa

I just thought I would share some of my musings with you over this period of lockdown and maybe some will resonate with you.... Though it has been hard not to be in the Churches meeting folk for worship and fellowship, I have been amazed by the creative response people have taken to continue a feeling of community with care and love and a holding of all the family.

Each Thursday at 8pm, I joined my neighbours to clap and cheer for our NHS and Key Workers. Weekly worship on YouTube has meant we have stayed connected to praise God and bring our worship from our own homes. The number of hits surely indicates also that we are reaching more people in this difficult time, God be praised for that!

Those unable to access worship in that way have received CDs of the Sunday Service to listen to at home, as well as printed copies of Newsletters and Online printable worship material, wherever possible and safe to do so.

Shopping has been done for those who have had to isolate. Pastoral phone calls, texts, Whatsapp, emails, Facebook have all come to play. As too has the often over looked art of writing letters and sending cards. Safe social distancing has been observed to deliver Birthday surprises and to recognise milestones in folks lives, including sharing in some points of worry and loss. Zoom and Skype have come into their own and allowed us to virtually see each other which included a Church Lunch on the May Bank Holiday. Those who couldnt join in that way, had meals provided by the church to their homes so we could all have a sense of family.

We have prayed together through Thy Kingdom Come, tied ribbons on our own house railings in memory of loved ones, met for House Groups to study Holy Habits together, wrote and recorded stories for our younger members, the list goes on and on throughout the Circuit. Creativity has spiked and we are still managing to fund raise for our set charities however remotely that has to be.

So what is all this saying? We are still the Church, and God has been, is and will be with us throughout this time. If we do everything in his name and to his glory, God will bless us and bring us through to brighter time ahead. Hold fast to God for he has this, we will come through..

May you feel God close to you in the days ahead, Lisa.

1 Minister. 2 Saddles. 6 Chapels. 25 Miles!

Each year, Great Ayton Methodist Church supports a different charity. In 2020, it's Teesside Hospice. Our overall church target is £7000!

We'd love to make a massive contribution to that amount through this tandem ride (as some events have not been possible due to Covid-19). So, I will be embarking on a tandem-tastic tour of all six chapels in the Stokesley Methodist Circuit on Saturday 27th June. It's a tandem ride so I need to take somebody with me! — but as I can't actually ride a bike on my own anyway, I will be doing this with my fabbo husband Andy.

This ride is also a chance for me to say cheerio and thank you for all your love and support to us for the past thirteen years, because we will be moving to Sheffield Circuit later this summer.

We will be posting details of the times that we'll be cycling past the chapels and through the villages, so watch this space. If you want to give us a wave from your window, that's great!

But in the meantime, please sponsor and support us for Teesside Hospice!

In the event of truly terrible weather on the day, we'll just postpone the ride to the following Saturday, 4th July! To donate please visit my JustGiving page. Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving — they'll never sell them on or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to the charity. So it's the most efficient way to donate — saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

God bless — Rev Lisa



Even though we've not been able to collect for Christian Aid in the usual way, two villages in the circuit have done a great job of encouraging those to donate online. At the time of writing Hutton Rudby has raised £2,575 and Great Ayton has raised £2,412.



Appeal from Miathene District, Kenya

For many years we have had a District link with Kenya and Debs Cosgrove, representing the Darlington District visited the Miathene District last year to take gifts for the churches and schools and keeps in contact with the Friends of Kianje, Kenya who are feeding vulnerable families in the rural areas of Miathene. The following is an appeal from them.

Ken Hudson

"The Covid-19 cases in Kenya continue to rise and a dawn to dusk curfew, forcefully administered by police, has been in place since 27th March and all schools, colleges and universities remain closed. Food prices have increased by at least 50% and many of the poorest find themselves trying to balance the threat of the virus with the threat of starvation.

Schools normally give vulnerable children a meal but closures mean these children have returned to unstable home conditions whose grandparent or single parent has no opportunity to make an income due to lockdown restrictions. Many of these families have little or no food and food reserves have been depleted by locust swarms. Typically 500 children receive support but with schools closed since March many are in great need. All the April food reserves has been distributed to vulnerable families. Local Methodist churches and teachers are prepared to deliver food parcels to our most vulnerable children. Each parcel would be made up to suit individual circumstances typically including maize, beans, cooking oil and soap.

Could you donate money to help support vulnerable children?

Your support could make a HUGE difference to these children and we can assure you that ALL monies you donate will directly buy these life saving supplies.

You can donate directly into our bank and include the words "Parcel Project"

Friends of Kianjai Kenya,

Sort code 30-90-49

Ac Number 33171360

Alternatively send money to the Darlington District Treasurer John Monkhouse or if preferred contact Ken Hudson who will help get the money to the project in Kenya.

Thank you so much!

Methodist Prayer and News by telephone:

Do you know someone who is not able to access the internet? There are two new free phonelines where you can dial in to hear a prayer from the Methodist prayer handbook or a selection of news items. Please pass on the numbers to help your friends to hear news and prayers each week.



FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a **prayer**: 0808 281 2514

Listen to **news**: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

Daily District Prayers

Each week we are sent suggestions for daily prayers for the week ahead - a prayer for the District and one for the wider world. Each morning at 10am these are published on our Circuit Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/stokesleymethodistcircuit/>

CIRCUIT DIARY DATES

Monday 01 June

2pm Stokesley online Knit and Natter group

Tuesday 02 June

7pm Stokesley online Fellowship

8pm Stokesley online Oasis Study Group

Friday 05 June

10.30am Stokesley online Prayer Group with Revd. Andrew

Saturday 06 June

10.30am Stokesley online Coffee Morning

11.30am Hutton Rudby online Coffee Morning

Sunday 07 June

10.30am Stokesley, Carlton & Hutton Rudby Worship with Revd Andrew

10.30am Great Ayton, Easby and Seamer Worship with Revd Lisa

11am Stokesley online Filling Station Study Group

Monday 08 June

2pm Stokesley online Knit and Natter group

Tuesday 09 June

2pm Carlton online zoom

7pm Stokesley online Fellowship

8pm Stokesley online Oasis Study Group

Wednesday 10 June

10am Hutton Rudby online Prayer Group with Revd. Andrew

CIRCUIT DIARY DATES

Friday 12 June

10.30am Stokesley online Prayer Group with Revd. Andrew

Saturday 13 June

10.30am Stokesley online Coffee Morning

11.30am Hutton Rudby online Coffee Morning

Sunday 14 June

10.30am All circuit churches - Worship with Revd Andrew

11am Stokesley online Filling Station Study Group

Monday 15 June

2pm Stokesley online Knit and Natter group

Tuesday 16 June

7pm Circuit Meeting

7pm Stokesley online Fellowship

8pm Stokesley online Oasis Study Group

Friday 19 June

10.30am Stokesley online Prayer Group with Revd. Andrew

Saturday 20 June

10.30am Stokesley online Coffee Morning

11.30am Hutton Rudby online Coffee Morning

Sunday 21 June

10.30am Stokesley, Carlton & Hutton Rudby Worship with Revd Andrew

10.30am Great Ayton, Easby and Seamer Worship with Revd Lisa

11am Stokesley online Filling Station Study Group

Monday 22 June

2pm Stokesley online Knit and Natter group

CIRCUIT DIARY DATES

Tuesday 23 June

7pm Stokesley online Fellowship

8pm Stokesley online Oasis Study Group

Wednesday 24 June

10am Hutton Rudby online Prayer Group with Revd. Andrew

8pm Stokesley Prayer and Praise group via emailed resources

Friday 26 June

10.30am Stokesley online Prayer Group with Revd. Andrew

Saturday 27 June

10.30am Stokesley online Coffee Morning

11.30am Hutton Rudby online Coffee Morning

Sunday 28 June

10.30am Stokesley, Carlton & Hutton Rudby Worship with Revd Andrew

10.30am Great Ayton, Easby and Seamer Worship with Revd Lisa

11am Stokesley online Filling Station Study Group

Monday 29 June

2pm Stokesley online Knit and Natter group

Tuesday 30 June

7pm Stokesley online Fellowship

8pm Stokesley online Oasis Study Group

CIRCUIT DIARY DATES CONTACTS

Everyone across the circuit is welcome to join in with any of the online activities. For details on how to join please use the following contacts:

Stokesley Knit & Natter: Contact Ann Keene or Margaret Stewart (TBC)

Stokesley Tuesday's Fellowship and Bible Study: Contact Mandy Robinson

Stokesley Friday Prayers: Contact Revd Andrew Robinson

Stokesley Saturday Coffee Morning: Contact Mandy Robinson

Stokesley Filling Station Bible Study: Contact Mandy Robinson.

Hutton Rubdy Saturday Coffee Morning and Wednesday Prayer group
contact huttonrudbymethodists@gmail.com

Carlton Soup & Sandwich Lunch: Contact Revd. Andrew

Great Ayton House Groups (Tuesdays and Thursdays): Contact Jeanette Hardy 01642 714799