

Welcome to the Stainton Church e-News for

Friday 18th September 2026

**“The Lord’s Prayer” comes to Middlesbrough – meet:
Archbishop Stephen of York and Bishop Barry of Whitby**

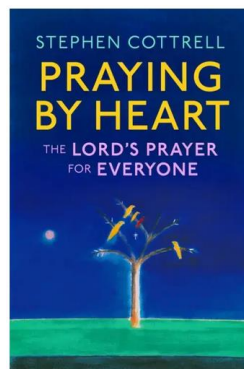
7.00pm on Friday 2nd October 2026, St Martin of Tours, Whinney Banks

We are delighted to welcome the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell, to Middlesbrough on the evening of Friday 2nd October at 7pm as part of his **tour of the northern province (*)** of the Church of England, exploring the Lord's Prayer.

The event is at **St Martin's in Whinney Banks**, is **free** and our Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Barry Hill be hosting a Q&A with the Archbishop on the prayer our Lord taught us.

For more details and to book your free place go to this link: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/event/12411/>

Archbishop Stephen has recently published the paperback edition of his book entitled “Praying by Heart: The Lord’s Prayer for Everyone”. Details [here](#): hardback @ £14.99; paperback @ £9.99



The Archbishop said on [Facebook](#) and on [his website](#):

“My book, 'Praying by Heart: The Lord's Prayer for Everyone' has been released today (10th September 2026) in paperback. I wrote this book so that everybody might come to know the prayer Jesus taught us more deeply. The book invites us to learn The Lord's Prayer, to pray it by heart and to live it out.” In under 70 words, [the Prayer] is a manifesto for the heart. Learning it, saying it, getting to the heart of it, can change the world. As we learn this prayer and say it each day, we come close to the heart of God and learn to live God's way.

(*) The Northern Province includes the following CofE Dioceses: Blackburn, Durham, Carlisle, Chester, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Sodor and Man, Southwell and Nottingham, and York.

Teesside churches unite to open up Bible conversations

Across Teesside, more people are asking questions about Jesus, exploring Christianity, and stepping through church doors. This autumn, churches across the region will respond together through **[Bible Conversations: Teesside](#)**, an initiative led by the [Bible Society](#) in partnership with [Transforming Teesside Together](#).

Churches across Stockton, Middlesbrough, and Redcar and Cleveland, **including the three Churches in our Church Family**, are creating opportunities to continue those conversations by hosting courses, small groups, one-to-one conversations, and relaxed spaces where people can explore the Christian faith together.



You will be able to find out what is happening where and when, and book free tickets, [by clicking on this link](#) or by scanning this QR Code with your smart-phone.



From 15th September 2026, our Church Family will be hosting **[The Bible Course](#)**, an 8-week course with videos and informal discussion that aims to give an **[overview of the Bible and its 'big questions'](#)**. This is open to **everyone** from our three Parishes (and beyond...) – no experience necessary! The course will be held at St Margaret's Church, Brookfield on Tuesday evenings at **7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, beginning on 15th Sept 2026** and then each Tuesday evening until 3rd November. [Editor's note: **The first session was exciting – do come alone and join us!**]

In addition, we are excited to be holding **[Bible Conversations](#)** - a further opportunity to chat and share our understanding or questions about the Bible with others - in each of our three Parishes as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Updated list | |
| • St Peter's Church, Hilton | Thursdays at 11.00am from 10 th Sept to 1 st Oct 2026 |
| • St Peter and St Paul's Church, Stainton | Mondays at 1.30pm from 5 th Oct to 26 th Oct 2026 |
| • Community Living Room, Hemlington | Thursdays at 12.00noon from 22nd Oct to 12th Nov |
| • St Margaret's Church, Brookfield | Wednesdays at 11.15am from 4 th Nov to 25 th Nov 2026 |

Pease join us in praying for Teesside, for churches preparing to welcome people, and for everyone who will encounter God's Word through the campaign.

Services and Events in our Churches over the next two weeks

On **Sunday 20th September 2026** it is **Trinity 16**. There will be services as follows:

At 9.30m at Hilton Church a service of **Morning Praise** led Julia Ardley, Authorised Lay Minister;

At 9.30am at Brookfield Church a service of **All-Age Holy Communion** at which our Pioneer Minister, Revd Vanessa Kirby, will preside;

At 11.00am at Stainton Church a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside; and

At 4.00pm at Brookfield Church a **Church Family at 4** service led jointly by Revd Vanessa and Revd Vanessa.

The scripture passages set in the Lectionary for Trinity 16 are:

- Jonah 3:10 - 4.11
- Psalm 145:1-8
- Philippians 1:21-30
- Matthew 20:1-16

On **Tuesday 22nd September 2026** at 9.30am at **Stainton Church** there will be a half-hour **Church Family Prayer Gathering**

On **Tuesday 22nd September 2026** at 7.00pm (for a 7.30pm start) at **Brookfield Church Hall** there will be **the second session** of our seven-week **Bible Course** led by our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild.

On **Wednesday 23rd September 2026** at 10.00am at **Brookfield Church** there will be a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside.

On **Thursday 24th September 2026** at 11.00am in **Hilton Church** there will be a **Bible Conversation** session.

On **Sunday 27th September 2026** it is **Trinity 17** and there will be services as follows:

At 9.30am at Brookfield Church a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside;

At 11.00am at Stainton Church a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Pioneer Minister, Revd Vanessa Kirby, will preside; and

At 4.00pm at Hilton Church a service of **Evensong** led by Revd Laura;

The scripture passages set in the Lectionary for Trinity 17 are:

- Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
- Psalm 25:1-8
- Philippians 2:1-13
- Matthew 21:23-32

On **Tuesday 29th September 2026** at 9.30am at **Stainton Church** there will be a half-hour **Church Family Prayer Gathering**.

On **Tuesday 29th September 2026** at 7.00pm (for a 7.30pm start) at **Brookfield Church Hall** there will be **the third session** of our seven-week **Bible Course** led by our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild.

On **Wednesday 30th September 2026** at 10.00am at **Brookfield Church** there will be a service of **Holy Communion** at which our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild, will preside.

On **Thursday 1st October 2026** at 11.00am in **Hilton Church** there will be a **Bible Conversation** session.

Please pray

... for the people of Middlesbrough and the surrounding area following the recent deaths after the crash on the A66 and the house fire. Our Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Barry Hill, has written a pastoral letter to the Clergy and Deanery Leadership Teams in our Cleveland Archdeaconry and your Editor is pleased to share extracts from Bishop Barry's letter, as follows:

Dear friends (...) I wanted to write with thanks, updates and **requests for prayer** following the events of recent weeks in Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland.

Churches in the most affected areas have continued to open their doors, hosting prayer vigils and gatherings, connecting with the most vulnerable and being **beacons of light amidst the darkness**. Fr John Swinhoe [Priest-in-Charge at St Paul's, North Thornaby], as Chaplain to Cleveland Police and Revd Laura Wild and Revd Vanessa Kirby as Chaplains to Police HQ have visited police stations to support officers in their grief and collectively, we are in daily contact with both senior officers and those on the local beat.

To help guide our prayers – yours and mine - here are four specific areas [that Bishop Barry has mentioned]:

1. **The timing of recent events coincides with a major ecumenical outreach across Teesside, funded and supported by the Bible Society.** As Christians, we know the life-changing difference knowing the love, identity, hope and call of Jesus Christ makes individually, and in a community, **so please pray that much fruit and transformation will result [from the Bible Conversations Teesside campaign] that will last many years across our region;**
2. **The emergency services continue to face extraordinary pressures. Please pray for** Firefighters, Paramedics and Ambulance Crews and Police Officers [who] continue to serve the community as they deal with their own grief and trauma;
3. **In September quite a number of new clergy will be licensed [to Parishes] across the archdeaconry.** Within Middlesbrough this includes Revd Marion Barella in Eston and Normanby on 29th September and Fr Gareth Gladman into Berwick Hills, Park End and Pallister Park on 9th September. Both of these parishes have been significantly impacted over many years by what we have seen in recent weeks. **Please pray for** all the clergy and lay leaders of Middlesbrough Deanery;
4. **And finally, as a community many people have lived in fear for some years and for others recent events have highlighted and heightened anxiety. Please pray for** a spiral of de-escalations rather than a pattern of escalating violence. May God's peace and protection be known across our community.

... for Nepal and Tibet
from [Christian Aid](#):

following the recent flash-floods that have occurred. Here is a prayer

We weep with the people of Nepal and Tibet. Images of devastation tell a story of terrible loss.

We cry out to you for the bereaved, for all who could not save their loved ones.

We grieve for those who have seen their homes swept away.

God, keep safe those waiting for rescue, renew the strength of emergency workers, and turn our shock and sorrow into action.

Make us your hands and feet, reaching out and standing with our neighbours in their deep distress and urgent need.

In Jesus name, Amen

... and for Venezuela

following the recent double-earthquake that hit the city of Caracas and the state of La Guairá and especially for the aid-agencies seeking to support the Venezuelans at this difficult time.

The UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a Venezuela Appeal on 1st July 2026 and by 19th August the Appeal had raised £20million but more donations are requested urgently. [Click here](#) to make a donation.

In the latest update DEC said: Thousands of people are injured, and the country's hospitals remain under extreme pressure. The UN estimates that millions of people have been affected, with more than two million people living in the worst impacted areas. The headline figures on the DEC website are that:

- **6,300 people were killed** in the earthquakes and many others are still missing; and
- **680,000 children** are in need of humanitarian assistance according to UN estimates

The earthquakes caused damage to homes and businesses in Caracas and across several states, with particularly serious impact reported in the La Guaira and Greater Caracas areas. Families are sleeping in makeshift tents on the street, with little protection from the heat and rain. Power lines and roads have been destroyed, and people are cut off from essential supplies.

... for Ukraine and Russia for an end to the war started by Russia.

... for Israel and Palestine, for Lebanon, for Iran and the wider Middle East

especially for the recently-agreed ceasefire between America and Iran and the fighting between Israel, Hamas and Hezbollah would endure and become a lasting Peace. Please pray too for Jewish and Arab Christians, and especially for the Iranian people at this time of civil unrest.

[Click on this link](#) to a prayer page on the *Embrace the Middle East* website and scroll down to watch and listen to Serop Ohanian, Regional Director of the Howard Karagheusian Foundation and General Manager of the [Karagheusian Health Centre](#) in Lebanon explaining how important to the Lebanese our prayers are.



Still image from the video

Please join us in praying for our Churches to Grow

Our Bishop Barry and Archdeacon Amanda have asked us to pray fervently for people to come forward to fill a number of clergy vacancies in our Archdeaconry. Praise God for the vacancies that have already been filled, and pray for all involved in the recruitment leading up to the Licensing of Priests in remaining Parishes/Benefices.

Can we invite you to use our **Revitalise** "prayer for growth" in your personal quiet times with God?

Revitalise us Lord,
Enthuse in our congregations the desire for mission. Give
Vision to our planning and
Inspire our thoughts as we seek Your will.
Teach us to be more like You, Christ
Abiding in You and
Loving one another.
In growing healthy churches,
Sharing our faith, living Christ's story
Every day, help us to be faithful disciples and bear much fruit. Amen.

Pastoral Support - Here are the contact details for our Vicar, Revd Laura Wild:

Address: The Vicarage, 89 Low Lane, Brookfield, Middlesbrough TS5 9EF
Phone: 01642-598621
E-mail: rev.laura.wild@gmail.com

Laura's normal "day off" is Friday - if you need to contact her on that day, please leave a message on the answerphone.

Bob Ardley