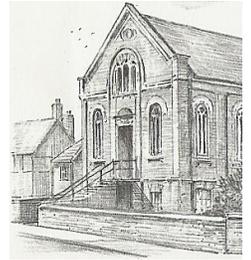


# STOTFOLD METHODISTS the church on the crossroads



## 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

## SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

**Jesus said: the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed which is the smallest of seeds, but which, once it is sown, grows into the biggest plant of all. Mark 4:26-32**

*Prayer, without ceasing, pray (Singing the Faith 528)*

Praying isn't easy, but it's a natural part of life. And for Christian people, it's essential. But can our prayer be like using a vending machine?

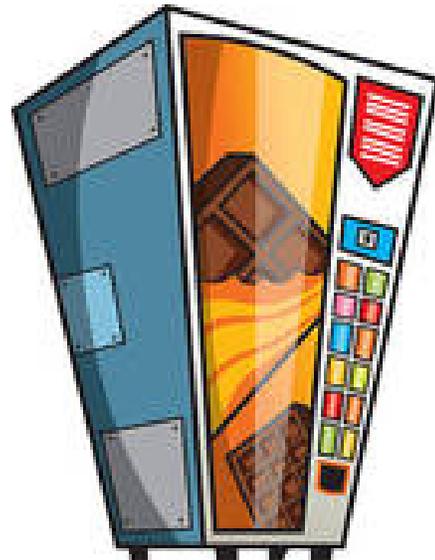
I will be forever grateful to my late mother for teaching me to say my prayers: "God bless mummy, daddy.... and all kind friends.". In this way I learned that God is someone to ask for help and blessing. However, I have sometimes found myself using prayer like a kind of vending machine: money in, sweets out.

Jesus, of course, is our example. He spent much time in prayer with his Father God, and one day, Jesus' disciples asked him "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke chapter 11), so he taught them what we now call *The Lord's Prayer*. The Lord's Prayer is not a "vending machine" prayer, since it's about asking for God's will to be done, for all he wants to happen, on Earth as in heaven. How can God's will be done on Earth? Surely it's mostly done through *people* being obedient to God, following his commands. What kind of vending machine tells *you* what to do (apart from telling you to *Insert more cash*)? Jesus listened to God and followed God's path for his life, and as a result *we* now have the privilege to address Almighty God as "our Father". So now we can ask God to forgive our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And we can pray for God's will to be done... in our lives, in us, through us.

So although it isn't easy, praying is a natural and essential part of Christian life. And although God's not a vending machine, prayer is rewarded. I am praying that God will continue to help each of us to pray. Amen. *Graham*

### **Sunday Services**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
10.00am	1 September	Rev Graham Claydon-Knights Holy Communion Service
10.00am	8 September	Chris Jones



10.00am	15 September	Rev Bob Forrest
10.00am	22 September	Rev Graham Claydon-Knights United Communion Service with Baldock
10.00am	29 September	Rev Julian Blakemore (Harvest Festival)

### What's On

Time and Date	Event
10.00 to 11.30am Saturday 7.9.19	Coffee Morning & Bring & Buy
2.00pm Mondays from 16.9.19	Monday Club
2.00pm Thursday 19.9.19	Carers Group
2.00pm Tuesday 8.10.19	Autumn Church Council
7.30pm Friday 11.10.19	Quiz Evening

<b>Minister</b> <b>Church Secretary &amp; Hall Hire</b> <b>Senior Steward</b>	Rev Graham Claydon-Knights 07340 857386 Julie Longhurst 01462-731167 Maggie Turner 01462-731030
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We hope everyone will try and attend the church council meeting on 8 October when decisions will be made about the future of our church.



[www.stotfoldmethodists.org.uk](http://www.stotfoldmethodists.org.uk)