

Welcome

Good Morning Weardale. Let us come together before God in worship.

Worship

- **Cornerstone**
- **I will build my church I will build my church (with Lyrics)**
- **An Army of Ordinary people**

The Living Stone and a Chosen People (1 Peter 2:4 -10)

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

God’s Purpose for His people- The church

Isaiah 14:26 – God has a purpose that involves the whole earth and all the nations

Isaiah 14:24,27 – If God decides to do something no one can stop him

Isaiah 46:11 – God will do what he has planned to do

Romans 8:28 – God has invited us to fulfil His purpose

2 Timothy 1:9 – God’s purpose was fixed before creation and is centred in Christ

Ephesians 1:9-11 – God’s purpose for us is planned and predestined

Ephesians 3:9-11 – God’s purpose is centred in the church

What is the church?

A community of all believers for all time

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25)

Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22-23)

Christ calls people to Himself and will build His church (Matthew 16:18) (Acts 2:47)

Throughout the Bible (Old and New Testament) God calls on his people (assembly, church) to gather (to hear God and to worship) (eg Deuteronomy 4:10, Hebrews 2:12, Ephesians 2:11-19)

The church is Invisible yet visible

Invisible- As an assembly of all true believers we can neither see all believers at once, nor know the spiritual reality (only God knows the spiritual conditions of our hearts). The invisible church is the church as God sees it (All believers from all time, unblemished, perfect and whole).

Visible –The church as Christians on earth see it. Time and location bound. Includes all those who profess faith in Christ and show evidence of that faith in their lives

The church is local and universal

Local- may be very small (eg all who meet in a house) (Romans 16:5, 1 Corinthians 16:19)

Universal- may be all believers in a city (1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 1:1) or a region (Acts 9:31)

Metaphors for the church

Family (1 Timothy 5:1-2, Ephesians 3:14, 2 Corinthians 6:18)

Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:32)

Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12: 12-27)

Branches of the vine (John 15:5)

A building (1 Corinthians 3:9)

A Harvest (John 4:35)

A new temple (1 Peter 2: 4-8)

A body with Christ as the head (Ephesians 1:22-23)

What does all this mean for us?

The church in our homes, our village, our town, our area (Weardale) may not be the same as, or identical to other settings. In just the same way that we are all unique and precious to God as individuals, so too are the gatherings of His people. What is important is that the church is:

Christ centred (not man central)

Our Love for God is to be undivided

The bible is The Source of God's truth

The church should be reaching out to the lost and wounded (broken hearted)

Understand that the church is not perfect (Only God knows all the imperfections and we do not need to worry). Jesus asks us to live out the truth of the kingdom in our own lives and not to go searching for error in others.

A vision for Weardale

Nearly twenty years ago, not long after we came to live in Weardale while I was worshiping and praying with an ecumenical group of Christians in the Dale God gave me two pictures (contrasting the Angel of the North with the heather on the hillsides). I believed then (and still do today) that God was saying we must not compare ourselves with others (not all churches will be big city centre gatherings- very visible close up – but possibly less so from afar) and that what God wants may be small but beautiful and part of a much larger plan (and the true beauty is only revealed when all parts come together and viewed from a distance – as seen by God)



In two weeks time we have an opportunity to take part in an online event that will help us to see in part the extent of God's church. Jean has already shared details on the Whats App group, but here they are again. You only need to be able to access the internet to register your location and that you are uniting in prayer (the social media aspects are extra).



BOW DOWN

FRIDAY 14TH MAY | 21:00

We would like to invite you to join us as we bow down, together in prayer, for our communities and nations as part of [Thy Kingdom Come](#) on Friday 14th May from 20:30.

 Previously this has happened in town and city centres in your localities, but this year we are taking this fully online, with a map to plot your location (house by house) and guided prayers.

Use this website on Friday 14th May from 21:00 - 21:15 (registration opens at 20:30), to share that you are uniting in prayer at that moment and use the guided prayers to join in a shared prayer moment (using the Lord's Prayer) with others from churches around the UK and Ireland.

Bow Down is a national event organised by [Vineyard Churches UK and Ireland](#), as part of [Thy Kingdom Come](#).

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

Bow Down was birthed in [Trent Vineyard](#), Nottingham. Their generosity with this idea and their vision for uniting in prayer has enabled this online event to be made possible.

By adding your details (first name and postcode), a pin will appear on a map on our website, representing your prayers. You'll be able to do this from 20:30 on Friday 14 May.



This website will guide you through the Lord's Prayer, updating in real-time with prayer points, allowing you to unify your prayers with thousands of others at that exact moment.

As we close that time together (at 21:15), we would encourage you to light a candle and place it in a window. This is to symbolically show that Jesus is the light of the world.



You may then like to share a photo of your candle on social media using the hashtag #BowDown