

**For 14/06/2020**

**200 Years at Hartlip**

A chapel in a village  
Surrounded by a beautiful garden  
Tended by you Lord and the hands of the faithful.  
Two hundred years of history.

Hymns sung, sermons preached, prayers said,  
Acts done that touched the lives of others  
Inside and outside the church  
Across two centuries.

Worshipping Sunday by Sunday,  
Never have times closed our building  
As current times have forced us to do  
As at present we still must do.

But the church is not the building.  
It is the people within its community  
A community finding new ways to keep in touch  
To support each other in live and prayer.

Current situations are guiding us to find  
New ways to worship,  
Fresh expressions of church and service  
New ways to love and care.

As twenty years ago ideas refreshed  
The work of the retreat centre began  
The start of new life for our community  
New work to do.

Lord we thank you for two hundred years  
Of work and service, love and care.  
We pray that you will continue to walk alongside us  
Your Holy Spirit guiding us on our future path.

We thank you for the new ideas the current situation grows  
Nurturing progress, emphasising priorities.  
We pray for all those who worship and use our building  
For those who come to take time with God.

We thank you for all those who may not be in our building  
Sunday by Sunday, week in, week out,  
But whose lives are enriched by the presence of our church  
And by a history that touches them.

Grant us continuing spiritual growth in our faith  
Linking with the village, with the parish church,  
With the school and local families  
Remembering baptisms, weddings, funerals.

Parties are delayed for now Lord  
But let us celebrate in our hearts  
The work of Hartlip Methodist Church  
Now and for the next two hundred years and beyond.

Holy Spirit Come Down.

Amen