

Trinity Methodist Church

Rev. J. Howard-Norman ☎ 07809686867



SUNDAY 22nd June 2025

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Galatians Ch. 3 v v 26-29

10.00 am Rev. J. Howard-Norman - Sacrament

Readings:-

1 Kings Ch. 19 v 1-4 (6-7) 8-15a

Galatians Ch. 3 v 23-29

Luke Ch. 8 v 26-39

Prayer Diary:- Church Council Secretary, Church Council Treasurer, Church Council Reps and Group I.

Saturday 28th June at 2.15pm at Trinity See Rev. Richard Andrew inducted as President of the Conference

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 29th June 2025

CIRCUIT SERVICE – Coffee served before morning worship

10.45 am – Rev. C. Hamilton – LIVE BROADCAST OF WORSHIP FROM THE CONFERENCE

Daily Prayer at 9:00am every day (except Sunday): This is now on Microsoft Teams. Just download Teams and you can go straight on to it or use this link

<https://teams.live.com/join/9414857191536>

EcoShop

The EcoShop is **open on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm** and we would love you to come along to try us out. You will be able to buy 10 items for £4. Please bring your own bag if you can.

There are 2 bins in the cafe area for donations (nothing perishable please) to be sold in the shop.

We are getting short of egg boxes, again, please can you save yours.

Thank you so much for your support.

We look forward to seeing you at the Eco Shop – please support us.

Join the Celebration at Methodist Conference 2025!

You may not be able to travel to Telford to be present in person at the Conference, but there is an opportunity for you to enter into the spirit of what is sure to be a wonderful celebratory weekend of events. Why not come along to **Trinity**, where you will be able to watch the opening session of conference live, on a big screen! **Saturday 28th June at 2.15pm** at Trinity - See Rev. Richard Andrew inducted as President of the Conference

The following morning, **Sunday 29th June**, there will be a special **Circuit Service**, beginning at **10.45am at Trinity**, which will feature a live broadcast of Worship from the Conference on the big screen, including, the reception into Full Connexional of Ministers to be ordained later that day at churches in and around Telford. One of the ordinands this year is Revd Rachel Pinkney, who some of you may remember was on placement in our Circuit. No one who has been present at Conference Worship will ever forget it. This year the service will be attended by about 1,000 people in the hall. The music and singing will be amazing and you will be able to join in! Do come and enjoy these very special celebrations.

John Howard-Norman

FOUNDATION SAFEGUARDING COURSE

A Foundation Module Safeguarding course will be held at Trinity Methodist Church, Stainsby Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 4JS starting at 6.00p.m. on Monday 7th July 2025.

STANTON VILLAGE BIG SING

With Marske Brass Band.- Theme;-

‘CREATION/CREATURES OF GOD’ – BRING YOUR PET

BRING YOUR PET

Led by Rev. Charity Hamilton and Rev. Laura Wild

THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd at 3pm

Meldyke Square, Stanton

Donations for the Unicorn Centre (Riding for the disabled)

Refreshments in the Memorial Hall – come and join us.

GARDEN PARTY

Lesley will be holding her Garden Party again this year which will be on Saturday 19th July from 2.30 onwards at 39 Tollesby Road, Acklam. If you are able to go please can you put your names and the number of people attending on the list in the Crush Hall. Thankyou - Lesley.

if anyone had any items suitable for a tombola. If you have, please can you contact her.

Thankyou.

SUMMER CONCERT AT NUNTHORPE

A Summer Concert by the Nunthorpe Singers will be held at Nunthorpe Methodist Church on
Friday 27th June at 7.00pm
Free entry, donations to Middlesbrough Food Bank, with refreshments in Church hall available

REFUGEE WEEK 2025 **THEME - COMMUNITY AS A SUPERPOWER** **SIMPLE ACTS FOR SANCTUARY**

1. Speak to a refugee or someone seeking sanctuary. Do not be afraid.
2. Organise a social or awareness raising event at your church/school and invite refugees.
3. Learn more about seeking sanctuary in the UK. Be well informed and able to challenge prejudice and disinformation. (Refugee Council)
4. There are very few legal aid immigration lawyers for people seeking protection. Local charity, Justice First, is a lifeline. Can you make a monthly pledge to Justice First?
5. Donate food and/or toiletries to the Mary Thompson Fund.

ASYLUM FACTS **There is no such thing as an illegal asylum seeker**

- The 1951 Refugee Convention guarantees everyone the right to claim asylum in a safe country if they are experiencing persecution in their own.
- When the government agrees a person meets the definition in the Refugee Convention, that person is recognised as a 'refugee'.
- Developing countries look after most of the world's refugees. Most refugees live in countries neighbouring their own, crossing borders on foot.
- People do not have to seek asylum in the first country they reach.
- There is no safe, legal route for people seeking asylum. It is recognised that people have always had to use irregular routes. There is no British Embassy to issue visas in countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Sudan.
- Afghan, Syrian, Iranian and Sudanese people make up majority of people on boats. These nationalities have high acceptance rates of their asylum claims.
- Asylum seekers want to work but they are not allowed to.
- The children of refugees and people seeking asylum have a positive attitude to learning and enrich our schools.

E mail contact: jctcl@hotmail.co.uk

Worship at Home – Revd Charity Hamilton

Middlesbrough & Eston Circuit

Hymn: StF 701 Heaven Shall Not Wait

<https://youtu.be/VOHOMQ9LU1M?list=RDVOHOMQ9LU1M>

Opening Prayer

God of deep places and distant shores,
we come to you today not with tidy prayers,
but with the scattered pieces of ourselves.
Some of us arrive full of doubt.
Some of us arrive exhausted by the news,
weary of war and helplessness,
not sure what to say anymore.

Some of us are holding grief we can't name,
and others have silenced parts of ourselves just to get through the week.

But still—here we are.
Gathered, like fragments pulled toward healing.
Listening, like the man in the tombs,
for a voice strong enough to quiet the noise inside.

So speak to us, Jesus.
Speak with kindness.
Speak with authority.
Name the lies we've believed,
and name us beloved in their place.

Let this time be a thin place—
between what is broken and what is being remade.
Between the ache of the world,
and the hope that still flickers beneath it all.

We pray this in your name,
the One who crosses every sea to find us.

Amen.

Readings Psalms 42 & 43; Luke 8: 26-39

Reflection

*"What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" - the man asked, naked among the tombs. And don't we all ask that question, in some way? **What do you have to do with me, Jesus, when my life is full of ghosts I don't know how to name?** When my hope is as brittle as glass in my throat, when the news from Gaza feels like it's burning a hole in my spirit. And even as I pray for peace, I wonder: **Do I really want it, if it costs me my illusions?***

The Gerasene man is us. Not just one man, but a metaphor for a people - fragmented, tormented, possessed by a legion of voices that shout louder than truth. He lived among tombs. And we, too, sometimes set up home among the dead things: grievances we water daily, hatreds justified by the nightly news, and that odd comfort in despair that lets us avoid the pain of hope. *"My tears have been my food day and night,"* says Psalm 42. In the occupied territories, where drones hum and

children don't sleep through the night, **isn't that prayer still being prayed?** And from Rafah, from Sderot, from the ruins of towers and the hearts of grieving mothers, tears are still food. Grief is still daily bread. But here's what unsettles me, what haunts: Jesus doesn't flinch. He doesn't turn away. He crosses stormy seas for the sake of one tormented soul. **He enters the land of the unclean, the enemy, the occupied, the disturbed.** And maybe that's the beginning of healing - **someone crossing the sea toward your pain instead of away from it.** The demons have names. Jesus asks for it. Legion. A word for military occupation. A word for how many voices we've let take over.

Racism. Cynicism. Consumerism. Exceptionalism. The inability to see the image of God in someone whose map looks different than ours. These are our demons.

And perhaps they don't froth at the mouth - they wear suits, craft policies, set algorithms. They whisper in boardrooms and on social media. And they tell us the lie that "some lives matter more." But Jesus sends them away. He doesn't negotiate with them. He doesn't let them stay.

Healing starts when the lie loses its voice. The man is clothed, and in his right mind. And the townspeople? They're terrified. **Because healing threatens the order we've grown used to.** And still today, many would rather keep the world demon-possessed, as long as it stays predictable. But the Gospel won't allow it. Because the Kingdom of God is always a disruption. So maybe this week, we dare to name some demons. In our hearts, in our systems, in our history. We stop trying to manage them, and ask Jesus to do what he always does - **cross the sea, enter the tombs, and speak peace where the noise was.**

And then, maybe like the psalmist, we'll pray not just with tears, but with hope: *"Why are you cast down, O my soul? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."* Amen.

Hymn: StF 655 We Cannot Measure How You Heal <https://youtu.be/OrNoQisGbDw>

Prayers

God of stormy seas and shores soaked in blood,
we cry out for Gaza.

For the mothers and fathers who bury children.

For the medics who treat wounds that never make the headlines.

For the prisoners—both those behind walls of concrete
and those behind ideologies too strong to crack.

Liberate us all.

Not just from the violence that bombs,
but the violence that forgets, that dehumanises, that justifies.

Christ, cross every sea.

Cast out every Legion.

Make us whole again.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Jesus,

some of us are the man among the tombs.

And some of us are the villagers who are scared of the healing.

We are possessed by the need to be right,
by fear of the other,

by apathy so deep it feels like sleepwalking.

Call us into our right minds.

Clothe us with truth.

Send us back to tell how mercy has touched us,
so our stories might heal what violence has broken.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Amen.

Hymn: StF 255 The Kingdom of God is Justice & Joy <https://youtu.be/KXZsAM4T7iU>

Blessing

May you go from this place
not to forget, but to remember differently.
May your grief be honest.
May your rage be holy.
And may your hope be inconvenient enough to change the world.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Be with us, those we love & those we ought to love. Amen.