

Trinity Methodist Church

Rev. J. Howard-Norman ☎ 07809686867



SUNDAY 4th October 2026 HARVEST FESTIVAL

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me..... . Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work.

Exodus Ch. 20 v 2 & 3 and 8,9 & 10a

10.00 am – Rev. C. Hamilton

Readings:-

Exodus Ch. 20 v 1-4, 7-8, 12-20

Phillipians Ch. 3 v 4b-14

Matthew Ch. 21 v 33-46

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

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY 11th October 2026

10am – Mr. R. Mapplebeck

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 Eco Shop 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 café area for donations (nothing perishable please) to be sold in the shop.
We look forward to seeing you at the Eco Shop – please support us.

Update on June - Thursday 1st October

June continues to take small steps every day towards recovery. The Speech and Language Therapist is pleased that her swallowing is improving. The physiotherapists continue to work with June to bring strength to her arms and legs (she had the attention of three of them yesterday). She is now able to raise her left arm above her head. Whilst she has regained much more movement in her legs she is not yet able to stand, but we are hopeful this will come in time. Needless to say, June finds all these efforts very tiring. Thank you for your continuing prayers. Rev. John.

Can you help?

We are requiring a Safeguarding Officer due to Malcolm retiring from the post and a Maintenance Secretary. If anyone would like to take on either of these roles can you kindly speak to Malcolm for the Safeguarding Officer and Bernard for the Maintenance Secretary.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

This is to be held on Thursday 8th October at 2pm in the Choir Room.

Worship at Home - By David Godfrey Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit - Sunday 4th October 2026

Hymn: StF 677, H&P 485 'Christ is made the sure foundation'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPq0CwbwkqI>

Prayers:

Confession: Merciful God, we live in a world that is full of selfishness, division and greed. Sometimes we get so swept up in cynicism that we lose our way. Sometimes we celebrate the things that divide us while ignoring foundational things that we have in common with one another. Forgive our self centred attitudes. Forgive our desire to be selfish and have our own way. Forgive our acquiescence to injustice and violence. Help us to see your guiding words and teaching that we may walk the path of life rather than the path of death. **Amen.**

Words of assurance: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Reflection:

Planting a garden on new ground is a process that begins long before a seed is ever placed in the earth. First the garden must be planned, with beds marked out and rubble cleared away. Then the soil must be dug and improved with manure to feed the plants. The soil is tilled and seed beds prepared. Only then will the seed be introduced to the earth. The work continues with weeding, watering and watching for pests. Only with great investment of time and labour will the reward of strong growth and good fruit appear.

Our Old Testament reading from Isaiah takes the form of a poem, not quite to a gardener, but to a vine grower. Here is one who prepares the ground, plants the vineyard and tends to it with loving care. He does everything right and expects good fruit, however, the harvest he reaps is one of bitter or rotten grapes. It is a sad poem which quickly moves into accusatory mode. It is as if the scene is switched to a courtroom. He accuses the vines of betrayal. By this point in the poem, the ancient residents of Israel and Judah would be fidgeting uncomfortably in their seats, because they would have cottoned on to the truth, that this poem is about them. God's people were likened to a vineyard quite often in Scripture, both in the Old Testament and in the New. God accuses them of ignoring their covenant relationship with him. Also they have failed to exercise justice in the land, the rich have trampled the poor and everyone is out for themselves.

There is a certain contemporary feel to this poem. The accusations may equally apply to UK politics and wider society. Our Methodist social conscience should be on full alert after reading these words from Isaiah. The remedy however is based on the simple truth that just as the vine grower cared for the vines, then so God cares deeply for us. He loves us and calls us to live lives of love. If the problem is corruption and injustice, then we are called to live honestly and justly ourselves. If the problem is that we trample on the needs of the poor then the remedy is to treat the poor fairly and with respect. And if we have forgotten God then it is time we renewed that age old covenant relationship with him. A relationship based on love, which enables his kingdom to grow in the world.

Prayers:

Intercessions: Lord of the vineyard, we are rooted and grounded in you, help us and your church to bear the fruits of love and justice, mercy and peace. Tend the vine you have planted and keep us abiding in you. We pray for the leaders and nations of the world knowing that you expect them to produce the wine of justice and peace. Raise up leaders who will govern so that all may flourish. May they defend those who are vulnerable and weak. We pray for those who are sick and suffering at this time. Revive them with the assurance of your loving presence. Quench their thirst for wholeness and healing and bring them and us to declare your glory. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen. Our Father...**

Hymn: StF 255, H&P 139, 'The kingdom of God is justice and joy'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqCOggQhFyo>

Blessing:

May the Lord of the vineyard, strengthen, comfort and restore you. May his Holy Spirit keep you steadfast on your way, bringing you at last to victory by the power of him who loved us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**