

Trinity + Methodist + Church

Rev. J. Howard-Norman ☎ 07809686867



SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2026

“Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.”

Isaiah Ch. 42 v 1

10.00 am

Mr. D. Elliott

Readings:-

Isaiah Ch. 42 v 1-9

Acts Ch. 10 v 34-43

Matthew Ch. 3 v 13-17

Prayer Diary:-

Sunday Club, Craft Group, Cambridge Road Baptist Church and Group B.

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY 18th January 2026

10am – Rev. D. Godfrey

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

Thanks to everyone for their support of the EcoShop.

We need (empty) 6 pack egg boxes too, please. Cash donations would also be very welcome.

Donations of **bird seed** for the garden would be greatly appreciated



The Flower list for those wishing to give flowers for church in 2026 is on the notice board outside the choir room. Please indicate if you are arranging the flowers yourself by putting the letters 'AO' at the side. An arrangers rota will be put in place in the near future if you would like one of our arrangers to arrange them for you.

Thank you to our arrangers for the fabulous job they do and thank you to everyone who has donated flowers.

Riding Lights Theatre Company will present *Night Falls*, a new passion play by Paul Birch. One of the UK's longest-established independent theatre companies, Riding Lights is known for touring high-quality productions to churches, cathedrals, and community spaces across the country.

Set over the four days leading up to the crucifixion, *Night Falls* retells the Easter story through two strangers sheltering in Bethany, in the house of Lazarus—where hope, faith, doubt, and grief collide, and where the impossible has already occurred.

Blending music with powerful drama, this fresh and vivid production explores themes of courage, belief, loss, fear, and hope that resonate widely. The performance is suitable for ages 12+, as some mature themes are explored.

**Thursday 26
February 2026,
7:30pm**

Tickets: £15 / £10,
with a 10% discount
for groups of 10 or
more

**RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS**

St Mary's Cathedral
MIDDLESBROUGH

**A PASSION PLAY
NIGHT
FALLS**

BY PAUL BIRCH

**"RIDING LIGHTS
WORKS MIRACLES"**
The Stage

**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL MIDDLESBROUGH
THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 7:30pm
TICKETS £15 / £10
01642 597750
www.ticketsource.co.uk/middlesbroughcathedral**

**RIDING
THEATRE
LIGHTS**

We'd be delighted if you and members of your congregation or community could join us, and you're very welcome to share this invitation more widely. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like more information.

Worship at Home - By David Godfrey
Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit - Sunday 11th January 2026

Hymn: StF 328, H&P 239, "Jesus shall reign where're the sun"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svSHCUcltHg&list=RDsvSHCUcltHg&start_radio=1

Prayers:

Confession and words of assurance (adapted from rootsontheweb.com):

Loving God, when we neglect justice, when we cause strife, when we walk away from your path of discipleship, forgive us. Lead us from darkness into your light. Work in us the miracle of your grace, that we might become people of humility, justice and mercy. We pray for strength as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.** "See the former things have come to pass." In Christ new hope is declared. Grace springs forth, we are reconciled with God and in Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Reflection:

Isaiah 42:1-9 is the first of four servant songs in Isaiah. Many commentators have argued at length about who the servant actually was. Some have named Cyrus of Persia as the servant. A king who defeated Babylon and who allowed the Jewish exiles to return to their homeland. Others have argued for a collection of individuals through the ages, or even for the whole people of Israel themselves. Early Christians saw God's servant in Jesus, and recognised in him the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy. However, rather than focussing on who the servant is, a more interesting question is what does the servant do?

We discover from Isaiah that the servant is called by God, patient, non-violent, and merciful. He is also one who does not execute justice by force, but through humility, reserve and endurance. We are told that, "a bruised reed he will not break and a dimly burning wick he will not quench."

It is an image of tender care for those who are vulnerable, or for those who need help to flourish. This is the picture of leadership to expect from one who is called by God.

Today it is very hard to imagine anyone standing for public office under this banner of humble, gentle leadership. Could you imagine a politician running on a platform of tenderly caring for a "bruised reed"? Surely such a person would be squashed by those who follow a more aggressive path. And yet Isaiah's servant is tougher than we might think, refusing to "grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth". This is exactly the vision of leadership that was adopted by Jesus after his baptism. When he came up out of the Jordan, he entered into a ministry steeped in that vision inherited from Isaiah. A ministry of leadership guided by mercy and a hunger for justice. May this vision speak to our hearts today as once it spoke into the heart of Jesus, God's servant. May we respond to it as Jesus did, with our whole lives.

Hymn: StF 706 "Longing for light, we wait in darkness"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y5N6oxlKH0&list=RD7Y5N6oxlKH0&start_radio=1

Prayers:

Intercessions: Loving God, when nations go to war and military might is the only currency that matters in our world, help us to remember the example of your servant Jesus Christ. We pray for those people and places where there is conflict and where innocent people suffer and die. We continue to remember Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, and Yemen. We also pray for the unfolding situation in Venezuela. We pray for justice for those who have lost homes, land and loved ones. We pray for those who lead the nations that they may turn their backs on violence and govern for the good of all. We pray for those who grieve at this time and for those who are sick, remembering especially those who are coming to the end of life. Bring to this earth your kingdom of peace, through the return of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen. Our Father...**

Hymn: StF 546, H&P 788 "Behold the servant of the Lord"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wsnzm6mSiao&list=RDWsnzm6mSiao&start_radio=1