

Trinity Methodist Church

Rev. J. Howard-Norman ☎ 07809686867



SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2026

“For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.”

Romans Ch. 14 v 7-9

10.00 am – Mr. J. Hinton

Readings:-

Exodus Ch. 14 v 19-31

Romans Ch. 14 v 1-12

Matthew Ch. 18 v 21-36

Prayer Diary:- St. Francis RC Church, Children's Groups, Youth Club and Group F.

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2026

10am – Rev. J. Howard-Norman - Sacrament

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.

The funeral for Malcolm Mays will take place on Tuesday the 15th September at 1.30 in St Hildas at the crematorium. Rev. David Godfrey will be taking the service. We continue to remember Joan and family in our prayers.,

The funeral of Ray Counter will be at Trinity on Thursday 17th September at 10am. The service will be taken by Rev. David Godfrey. We pray for all the family.

YEAR BOOKS

The Year books are now available in the Crush Hall at £1 each.

Please continue to pray for June and Rev. John as June remains very ill in hospital.

WORSHIP AT HOME SEPTEMBER 13 2026 DAVE ELLIOTT

HYMN StF 90 H&P514: Sweet is thy work my God, my King.

PRAYER: Lord we thank you that we can worship you at any time and in any place. Sometimes on our own, sometimes with others, today through the technology that allows us to share in this way. Bless us as we worship you. Accept our thanks for this past week, for all we have done, for those who have helped us and those we have helped. Bless us as we seek to serve you better. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray saying; Our father who art in Heaven...

READING: Matthew 18 : 21-35 and the theme is 'The Meaning of forgiveness'

MESSAGE: Thank God for Parables, they showed that Jesus wants us to fully understand his teaching in a way that is relevant to us and our lives. This story is quite dramatic; the unforgiving servant has acted in a selfish and thoughtless way. He has been forgiven for his debts and spared an unpleasant punishment for him and his family. Now when his servants are in debt he refuses to forgive . Such is his arrogance and inability to empathise. Of course we know the meaning of the parable don't we. It is reminding us that as God forgives us our many sins, so we too must forgive those who may do us wrong.

Simple isn't it? Or is it? How easy is it to forgive someone who has really upset or offended us, someone whose deeds have caused us or our loved ones harm and hurt. Put it in that context, I would find difficulty forgiving anyone who hurt me or those I love. Yet the Christian way is not always easy, we are challenged to do God's will, challenged to be different, to make sacrifices. We see so many examples of people and nations unable to forgive, always determined for retribution to get their own back.

When will we or they ever learn?

God loves us in an amazing way, we possibly find it hard some-times to understand how great that love really is. He gave us his Son Jesus to be our Saviour to show us how to love. He went to a cross to take away our sins.

Is it asking too much that we, who follow Jesus, should be like him, should love in such a way that forgiving others becomes the norm, we can't be anything other than forgiving. Well that gives me something to consider and a challenge to continue to face and a way of loving to continue to embrace. Are you thankful that God forgives you and me, and are we prepared to forgive?

We know we are not on our own, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us in all our living, thanks be to God Amen.

PRAYERS: Lord God we thank you that you forgive us when we know we have done wrong, when our unkindness has upset other people, our lack of forgiveness caused others to feel hurt. Lord give us the love to forgive and to care to support those who need us and to love those who are sometimes unlovely. We pray today Lord for Peace, in our own lives and in the life of your World. We pray for all those people who help others to repair broken relationships. May we also be prepared to listen and support those who are going through difficult times, often because of other people's cruelty and uncaring ways.

We pray for those people we love and we name them before you Lord. We pray for those who we know to be ill at this time in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those who heal and who care. We think of people who may have become our enemies, who maybe we don't see any more, we pray that broken relationships in our lives maybe restored by love.

So hear these our prayers for we offer them in the name of Jesus Amen.

HYMN StF 495 H&P673: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, forgive our foolish ways.

PRAYER: We live as forgiven people, we pray we might forgive.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us and all we love and care for, today and always Amen.



'Let your Holy Spirit blow over the earth, like the power of the storm; break into our lives, like blood into our veins and bring us to life like the energy of the sun.'

Prayer of a Ghanaian Christian

9th September 2026

Dear friends,

You may be aware that the celebrated American poet, Wendell Berry, died recently. He was a farmer but also a fearless campaigner against consumerism and systems which dehumanise life, who called us to honour the earth and live with love, humility and mystery. He ends one of his most famous poems, *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*, by suggesting that above all, we should, 'Practice resurrection.'

Over the past year during my time in the presidency, the Vice President, Matt Forsyth, and myself developed a theme which we entitled, *Our Story, Our Song*. It had many strands to it but one element which seems to me important within the theme is the idea that we need to be liberated from stories which seem irredeemable and which prevent us from taking a step into the next page or chapter of the story.

I was struck recently whilst re-reading the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, how at one point they seem to be rooted to the spot unable to move: 'They stood still, looking sad,' (Luke 24:17). They are lost in the brokenness and darkness of all that has happened in the preceding days, wondering how to orientate themselves for the journey ahead, even whilst they have heard rumours of a different future. Emmaus is, at least at the beginning of the journey, a story about rupture, darkness and loss or at least about how we stand and emerge from these things. It's our story too, whether our story is one of concern about the future of our church community, a deep personal sense of loss or anxiety, or a deep rupture in a community, as we've witnessed in Middlesbrough in recent weeks. Yet, as Wendell Berry encourages us to think, when we wonder what resurrection might look like, we are invited to practice it.

How does that happen? The first thing I notice is that Jesus does not ignore the reality of their loss or the darkness that they experience. Jesus is present to, in and alongside the darkness. He stays with them. He walks with them. Darkness comes before the light; tears before renewal.

But as he walks with them, another stage of the journey begins to unfold: he engages with them. He begins to loosen within them the sense that this is the end of the story. He does not force himself upon them but as one stage of the journey seems to be coming to a close, he awaits their permission before entering into their home where he shares with them in the breaking of bread. Something changes: the door to the new is opened not cautiously but decisively. The door to the future that seemed closed is incapable of closing ever again. As one writer, Michael Paterson, puts it, '...death is undone, not negotiated with.'

I wonder whether as a district we are being called to a deepening of our vocation by becoming 'practitioners of resurrection.' This means inhabiting the brokenness, whatever that might look like for us, and refusing to accept that it marks the end of the story. What is pointed towards in the journey to Emmaus is another page to turn, another chapter that needs writing. And Jesus stands at the threshold waiting to call us forth.

What he promises is freedom from stories which hold us in their grip and deny our true humanity. He liberates us from dead identities which we need to leave behind, which suffocate us and prevent us from stepping forward. The changes may seem unspectacular. But they are in fact everything because they offer a new way forward, a new beginning, a new way of looking at the world.

This is practising resurrection.

Peace and light,

Richard

Revd Richard Andrew
Chair, Darlington District