

Trinity Methodist Church

Rev. J. Howard-Norman ☎ 07809686867



SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full,”

John Ch. 12 v 9-10

10.00 am

Rev. C. Hamilton

Readings:-

Acts Ch. 2 v 42-47

1 Peter Ch.2 v 19-25

John Ch. 10 v 1-10

Prayer Diary:-

St. Francis Church, Children's Groups Youth Club and Group F.

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY 3rd MAY 2026

10am – Mr. J. Hinton

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.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



This year Christian Aid Week is May 10th-16th. Trinity Ladies Circle are supporting a Coffee Morning on Monday May 18th to raise funds to support this very important Charity. This will be held at 17, Harrow Road from 10-12. Everyone is welcome ! Please come along for a Cuppa and Cake and make a Donation! Donations may also be made using the envelopes which will be at Morning Service on Sundays of May 10th and 17th.

I have received this e-mail from Helen, Gillian and Paul Hudson who have asked me to let friends know about Margaret's death.

Margaret Hudson died peacefully on 14th April 2026 Whilst this is a loss for us as a family, we take peace in the knowledge that she is suffering no more and has been reunited with our Dad, Ken.

The funeral for Margaret will take place on Friday 8th May 1pm at St Bede's Crematorium, Acklam TS5 7HD Followed by 2pm Service at Great Ayton Methodist Church, TS9 6NF You are very welcome to attend one or both of these events and stay behind at the church for refreshments afterwards.

Memories can be viewed and shared about Margaret on the below link, where there is also a link to give a donation in memory of Mum to 'Action for Children' - formerly known as National Children's Home. Mum used to raise money for this organisation, and throughout her life always had a special place in her heart for children.

<https://margaretjudson.muchloved.com/>

Dear Friends

As part of our **Ruby Jubilee celebrations at St Mary's Cathedral**, Coulby Newham, I wanted to invite you and your communities to join us for a special evening of music with Jo Boyce & Friends on **Saturday 16 May at 7:30pm**.

Many will know Jo from BBC Songs of Praise, her music is uplifting, engaging and easy to join in with. It promises to be a warm and welcoming evening and we would love to see people from churches across the area there.

More information and tickets can be found here:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/middlesbroughcathedral/an-evening-of-praise-with-jo-boyce-and-friends/e-ajejpe>

Many thanks
Canon Paul



Some reflections on Trinity Ladies Circle

When we moved to Acklam we settled happily,
We went to the Methodist Church it was named Trinity.
It was a friendly, active church with a mixed congregation,
Families from the new estates joined with jubilation.

We joined the Trinity Ladies group and fitted very well,
We found friends and companionship it is true to tell.
We had a varied programme in which we all took part
Of course the Good News of Jesus at the very heart.

We had quizzes and demonstrations, games and music too,
With an interesting group of ladies we found many things to do.
But now empty chairs remind us of dear friends we miss
Anecdotes flash through our minds when we reminisce.

We may be growing older, and slower with the years,
But we are still a happy group and overcome our fears.
So why not come and join us, share our fun and laughter,
Assured by trusting in God's love of a happy ever after.

If you decide to try us out we'd give you an ovation,
We await you with friendliness and glad anticipation.
Perhaps a cup of tea would help and a biscuit too,
As you must have gathered we really do need you!

LADIES CIRCLE MEETS WEEKLY ON MONDAYS AT 2pm

CAN YOU SPARE AN HOUR TO COME, WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

PLEASE CHECK IN OUR YEAR BOOK AS SOMETIMES WE HAVE
BREAKS,

WE FIT IN WITH SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, CHILD MINDING OVERTAKES.



The Middlesbrough and Eston Methodist Circuit — Revd John Howard-Norman
WORSHIP AT HOME
Sunday 26th April 2026 — The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Opening prayer

Loving God, we gather in your presence. Quieten our minds and open our hearts to your love. Receive our prayers and our praise, and draw us closer to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: STF 102 For the beauty of the earth

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Creator God, thank you for the world you have made. For daylight, birdsong, and the signs of spring that remind us that life keeps coming back. Thank you for all the small, quiet gifts that surround us, that we so easily take for granted. And thank you that the God who made all of this also knows each one of us by name, and cares for us as a shepherd cares for the flock.

Forgive us for the times we have been too busy, too anxious, or too distracted to notice your goodness. Forgive us when we have forgotten that we are loved. Receive our praise and our prayers, and meet us now in the quietness. Amen.

Bible Reading: John 10:1-10

Reflection: The Gate

The picture of Jesus we find in the tenth chapter of John's gospel is very familiar. Perhaps you remember a painting of the Good Shepherd hanging in the room where your Sunday School met when you were a child. It's a comforting image. We all want to be cared for by the Good Shepherd, who was prepared to lay down his life for us, his beloved sheep. Yet, part way through the passage, it seems that Jesus changes the subject and begins to talk about himself as a gate, and we may wonder why?

On my walks through the beautiful countryside around where I live, many field boundaries require me to open (and not to forget to close!) a gate. They are essential to ensure that livestock doesn't escape from the safety of the field in which they graze, but what does all this have to do with Jesus?

In the world Jesus and his hearers inhabited, a shepherd guarding his flock through the night would lie down across the entrance to the sheepfold. His own body became the gate. Nothing could enter or leave without passing over him. The metaphor of the shepherd and the gate are not separate images, they are one. The shepherd is the gate. To say "I am the gate" is simply to say more fully what it means to be a shepherd; who protects the sheep, not by remaining at a distance but by placing his own body between them and the dangers that lie in the darkness beyond the sheepfold.

This particular gate is not an inanimate barrier. It is a presence. When Jesus says, those who enter through him will find pasture; will go in and out freely; will have life in abundance, he is describing life lived in a relationship. Access to that life cannot be earned or won for

ourselves. It comes through the one who has already placed himself, body and soul, at the threshold. Gates can speak of exclusion — we have all experienced closed doors, in one form or another, and the memory can be painful. But this gate is held open, and the one who holds it open does so, not from a position of power and judgement, but through service and self-giving. The gatekeeper decides who enters. The gate offers the way through.

Whatever doors have been closed to you, through circumstance, through loss, through the accumulated weight of the years - this passage places an altogether different threshold before you.

The gate is open. And the one who has opened it, is also the one who calls you by name.

Hymn: STF 479 The King of love, my shepherd is

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, we bring to you the people and the world that you love.

We think of everyone living in fear today; those caught up in war and conflict, people who have had to flee their homes, families struggling to make ends meet. We ask that those with power to help would use it wisely and generously.

We pray for our own community; those who are unwell, those who are grieving, those carrying a burden we may not even know about. Hold them close, Lord.

We especially remember those who feel alone; people who can go a whole day without anyone calling their name. Remind them, through your Spirit and through us, that they have not been forgotten.

We pray for your church; not just our own congregations, but your people everywhere, that we would be a community through which others can catch a glimpse of the life you promise.

And we pray for ourselves. For patience, for trust, for the grace to hear your voice above all the noise of daily life.

Hear our prayers, for we ask them through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lords Prayer

Hymn StF _481_ _The_Lord's_my_shepherd, I'll not want.

Blessing

Go in peace, in the company of the risen Christ.

May God bless you and keep you,

may Christ walk with you this week,

and may the Holy Spirit bring you joy.

Amen.

