

Trinity Methodist Church

Rev. J. Howard-Norman ☎ 07809686867



SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2026

“The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet, and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Romans Ch. 13 v 9 and 10

10.00 am – Mrs. R. Lewis - AAW

Readings:-

Exodus Ch. 12 v 1-14

Romans Ch. 13 v 8-14

Matthew Ch. 18 v 15-20

Prayer Diary:- Communion Stewards, Property and Finance Committee, Ladies Circle and Group E.

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 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.

Dear Friends,

As many of you will be aware, June has not been well for some time. Following a chest x-ray a couple of weeks ago, and more recently a CT scan, a mass has been detected in one of her lungs. It is not known at present whether this is cancerous. She is to have further tests next week, following which we should know more. With David's Godfrey's agreement, I have temporarily stepped back from pastoral work to focus on caring for June, but will continue to preach. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact David Godfrey.

Your continued prayers for June would be greatly appreciated.

With every blessing,

John

Grateful thanks to all who helped and contributed to the 'Garden Party' last weekend. Special thanks to Allison who was my gopher and sous chef for 2 days. The final total reached £500.
Thankyou, Lesley.

Sadly Joan Mays husband Malcolm died this week. His funeral 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.

Worship at Home - By David Godfrey Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit - Sunday 6th September 2026

Hymn: StF 536, H&P 46, "What shall I do my God to love"

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=what+shall+i+do+my+god+to+love+hymn

Prayers:

Confession and words of assurance:

Gracious God, amidst our songs of joy, our hearts are touched by fear. Sin plagues our world, sorrow enters our lives, even as we seek to hide from the truth of our ugliest thoughts and actions. Cover us with your forgiveness and grace and reconcile us with your love and compassion. Bring us closer to you that we may be welcomed into your presence and assured of your steadfast love and hope. **Amen.** Whenever

two or three are gathered in Christ's name, God is with us. With God there is healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and unlimited love. We are forgiven and made one with Christ and with each other. Thanks be to God, **Amen.**

Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

Reflection:

Whenever the Sunday lectionary of readings throws up a short passage of Scripture like this, it is always worth looking to see what comes just before and what comes just afterwards. Before this passage comes the parable of the lost sheep, where we discover that Jesus keeps looking for those who are lost, even when most people would have given up the search long ago. And then afterwards comes Peter's question, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus answers that there is no limit to forgiveness. We should keep forgiving even when everyone else would have given up on the idea long ago. There is a continuous theme here about reaching out to people, and never giving up on them.

Our reading for today, sandwiched in the middle, follows that theme. On the surface it seems like a rather legalistic blueprint for handling complaints and discipline within the church. First we speak to the offender ourselves, then we take another person as reinforcement, and if that doesn't work we involve the whole church. If none of that works then, Jesus seems to be saying, we throw the offender out, treating them like a tax gatherer and a sinner. Many in the past have treated this reading in a legalistic way where it has become a hard, and unforgiving means of control within the church. But this teaching is not a blueprint for discipline which we follow legally step by step. We should know by now that Jesus is never legalistic.

In the gospels Jesus is always trying to restore broken relationships, and bring back into community those who have lost their way. Jesus' own response to the lost tax collectors and sinners was to never give up on them. He kept reaching out to them. He never stopped looking for the lost. He never stopped forgiving the sinner. And here he teaches his brothers and sisters in the church to never stop trying to restore and reconcile themselves with those who have done wrong. It is a lesson the church has repeatedly failed to learn, but of course it is never too late, even for us.

Hymn: StF 712, "Put peace into each other's hands"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwvYConbz0k&list=RDvwvYConbz0k&start_radio=1

Prayers:

Intercessions: Lord we pray for your world as we hear reports of war, conflict and natural disaster. We pray for Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Sudan, and for many other places where violence is rampant and humanity is suffering. Bring peace to those who suffer the consequences of war. Bring healing and reconciliation to your world. We pray also about the tragic events in Middlesbrough these past two weeks. We remember those who have lost their lives, and the families that mourn them. Grant your, strength and comfort to those whose life is not going smoothly. We think of those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit and ask for healing and peace. Hear our prayers in the name of Christ Jesus our Saviour. **Amen. Our Father...**

Hymn: StF 254, H&P 138, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAqSD7XIkPc&list=RDMAqSD7XIkPc&start_radio=1

Blessing:

We go forth to serve and God goes with us. May we go with the power of God, and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us always. **Amen.**