

Trinity + Methodist + Church

Rev. J. Howard-Norman ☎ 07809686867



SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 2025 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse: from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord- and He will delight in the fear of the Lord.”

Isaiah Ch. 11 v 1-3

10.00 am Rev. J. Howard-Norman – Sacrament – All Age Worship

Readings:-

Isaiah Ch. 11 v 1-10

Romans Ch. 15 v 4-13

Matthew Ch. 3 v 1-12

Prayer Diary:- Minister, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, St. Martins CofE Church and Group H.

SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY 14th December 2025 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10am – Mrs. R. Lewis

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. Packs of 36 weetabix or supermarket's own brand would be welcome too.

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

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD

The Christmas card is now on display. Anyone wishing to make a donation in lieu of sending Christmas cards please put your greeting in the Card and your donation in the box provided. All monies raised will go to the Church charity which year the Jonas Centre.

PANTO TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE for details see Poster in the Crush Hall.

GROVE HILL CHURCH

Friday lunches finish on December 12th with the Christmas lunch which costs £5. They begin again on January 9th.

THE CIRCUIT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IS AT GROVE HILL 2PM ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH. LOTS OF GREAT MUSIC AND WORDS. COLLECTION IN AID OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN

AMENDMENTS TO MEMO

Christmas Day service at Trinity is at 10am

Stainton Village Carol service is on Tuesday 16th December at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall.

STARS FOR MIDDLESBROUGH

Opportunities to drop stars off / attend Star making worship's at the Shop Unit on the ground floor of the MMH building (Linthorpe Road) and also dates to help distribute the stars in Middlesbrough Town Centre.

December 13th Star drop off/star making workshop – SHOP UNIT 10-12noon / 2-3pm

December 18th Star drop off/star making workshop – SHOP UNIT 10am – 2pm

December 20th.21st. 22nd, 23rd STAR GIVEAWAY DATES (if people want to be involved in this contact Charity for info on meeting places and times.)

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence 25th November to 10th December

DARLINGTON DISTRICT MWiB

This is a campaign that seeks to eliminate violence against women and calls upon us to unite, take action and raise our voices for a future free from violence against women and girls. Wouldn't it be good if, as members of the Darlington District MWiB we could use these 16 days to learn more about the subject and pray about the situation and for organisations that campaign and offer aid.

Information has been taken from a Women of the North report: 'Inequality, health and work' and the National Police Chiefs report 23/24.

7th December: At church or in your MWiB meeting why not consider organising a candlelight vigil for a moment of solidarity and remembrance.

8th December: The Police and Crime Commissioner for each area is required to publish a Police and Crime Plan, find out how your commissioner intends to deal with domestic violence and abuse in their areas. Joy Allen is the PCC for County Durham and Darlington, and Matt Story is the PCC for Teesside.

9th December: Be a part of the MWiB support of the global 'Thursdays in Black' campaign, a movement that encourages people worldwide to wear black on Thursdays as a symbol of solidarity and protest against gender-based violence, including rape, abuse and injustice. The campaign's goals are to challenge the attitudes that cause violence and to advocate for a world where everyone is safe and free from fear.

10th December: The 16 days of activism ends today. Perhaps you can reflect on some thing that you have learned in the last 15 days and make a commitment to find out more and act. Interestingly today is the International Human Rights Day.

Over the past few years, we have compiled a number of Christmas hampers and distributed them to those in most need in the neighborhood.

This year we have decided to support those people who are using the Eco Shop as there is a wider need in the community.

We are going to compile gift bags with treats and distribute them before Christmas.

We are aiming to spend around £10 per bag and hopefully make around 40 bags.

So, this year we are asking for donations towards these gift bags.

Please either give your donations directly to Lesley or put them in an envelope marked Christmas gifts and place them in the collection plate. You could also donate by bank transfer but please make it clear it is for Christmas gifts.

Thank you for your support.

WORSHIP AT HOME for week commencing Sunday, 7 December 2025 – by Ron Mapplebeck

Opening prayer: Blessed be our God, who does wonderful things. Let us worship him together. Let us draw near with thankful hearts and acknowledge the glory of his name. Amen.

Hymn: STF no. 185/H&P no. 244 - Sing we the king who is coming to reign

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlqcBEcWpOw&list=RDVlqcBEcWpOw&start_radio=1

Prayers and Lord's Prayer: Let us pray. Prepare the way of the Lord. Let us quieten ourselves and become aware of where we are, how we are, whom we seek, whom we expect, whom we long to please. Prepare the way of the Lord. We listen for the sound of his footsteps, his touch on our arm, his smile and his greeting. Prepare the way of the Lord. He chose us – you and me, invited us to come, called us here in person. Prepare the way of the Lord. Because we are his friends and followers, his co-workers in the world, he needs us to be fit and ready, reared on God's love, filled with the Spirit. On your marks. Get set. Go! Prepare the way of the Lord. *Confession:* God, forgive us when we have not rooted ourselves in you, when we have not heeded your word in our lives, when we have not borne the fruit of your love. God, forgive us when we have slipped into apathy, when we have forgotten to welcome you, when we have neglected to welcome each other. God, forgive us when we have glorified hate instead of compassion, when we have let the world dictate our lifestyles, when we have abandoned ourselves to other things. God, forgive us for your arms are wide open, and yet we often choose not to run into them. May we shed all the rubbish and allow ourselves to be held once again in your embrace – by the power of your Spirit and through the saving work of Jesus. Amen. Loving God, warm our hearts. Make us compassionate as we remember those who are ill – especially those we know personally – and pray that they may be aware of the comfort of your presence.

.... *And together we say the Lord's Prayer:* Our father, who art in heaven

Reading: Matthew 3.1-12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzRmxoxqys4>

Hymn: STF no. 157 /H&P no. 64 - God has spoken – by his prophets

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoPiKqKTmbg&list=RDRoPiKqKTmbg&start_radio=1

Message: Too busy getting ready for Christmas? Is that a problem for us too? It seems to me the Christian festival of Advent is fairly low-key these days. Maybe it is rightly a time for contemplation, but we don't quite seem to get the excitement or adventure there should be in this period, nothing like the anticipation we build up more solemnly during Lent in the lead-up to a joyful Easter. Are we too busy buying presents, preparing food, arranging visits – or to be visited – to think very much about Christmas until the day itself arrives? We should not disregard the irony within that statement of being too busy getting ready for Christmas. Without Advent, there would have been no Jesus, no resurrection, no Christian Church! How might it have been if back in history, other people had been too busy? How inconvenient it must have seemed to a busy carpenter in Nazareth to have to close his business and embark on a trek to Bethlehem just because the Roman occupiers wanted to take a census. How arduous was that particular journey for his heavily pregnant fiancée? The harassed innkeeper in Bethlehem was probably not cursing the Romans quite as much, after all, business was booming. But he could easily have claimed to have been too busy to bother finding a couple of strangers some space in his stable. What would have happened to those sheep out in the field if their shepherds had been too busy to look after them properly? Could those wise men from the east have found better things to do than follow a star? Advent is all about the coming of Jesus. If there have been times when we failed to recognise Him coming into our own lives maybe it is because we thought we were too busy. It would be a tragedy if we were still too busy? Too busy getting ready for Christmas so that we miss out on the real thrill, the excitement, and the suspense contained within the season of Advent!

Hymn: STF no. 418/H&P no. 465 - We have a gospel to proclaim

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Km4pnriHrH4&list=RDKm4pnriHrH4&start_radio=1

The Grace

We are approaching the time for us to carry out the next phase of the development work.

We are going to enlarge the entrance foyer into the worship space by installing a glass screen with 3 sets of double glass doors across the worship space with a roof and forming 3 large openings through the wall to the crush hall and replace the vinyl flooring etc. including the vinyl flooring to the worship space. This space will have its own heating and lighting and can be used for various events and booked for separate activities to the main worship space.

Work is planned to start on Monday 11th January 2026 and will take 8-10 weeks, basically up to the Easter 2 weeks holidays. During that period there will be no access to the worship space and Janice is contacting all groups affected to make alternative arrangements. Everything will be moved from the crush hall and worship space before work commences and replaced on completion. Exact arrangements to be finalized but any help will be gratefully accepted.

We are also going to install blinds to the upper windows in the worship space in advance of the work on 17-19th December 2025.

Drawings will be put up in the worship space and main hall indicating the proposed works.

Please contact Bernard Nixon 07764579481 with any queries on the work or Janice Lawson on 07977852146 regarding room hire