



**TRINITY CHURCH**  
**(Methodist & United Reformed)**

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*'Serving God, serving each other, serving community'*

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22 February 2026

**10.30am Morning Worship  
& Commissioning of Pastoral Elders  
led by Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson**

**Church Steward** on duty: Caroline Aitkin & Lindsay Busby

**AV Team:** Ntwana Msonthi & Margaret Greaney

A **special welcome** to all joining us today

There is an **Open Prayer Book** in the Welcome Area for you to enter the name of any situation or person you wish to remember during the service. There is also a **Prayer Box** for requests which, for any reason, need to remain confidential, and each individual will be prayed for by name later in the week, and in confidence, by the Prayer Group.

**Our Junior Church** will not be meeting today. Children are welcome to stay in the Service, or take advantage of the toys and activities in the Welcome Area.

Thanks to Malcolm & Eve for the flowers  
to mark both Eve's birthday, and in memory of Kathy.

You are very welcome to stay for a cup of coffee or tea after today's service.

thanks to today's Coffee Rota volunteers:

Marie & Reg Williams

**Next Week at Trinity Sunday 1 March**  
10:30am Morning Worship & Junior Church  
led by members of the congregation

Welcome

Time of Quiet

Call to Worship

♪ All hail the power of Jesu's name! StF 342ii

Opening Prayers

♪ What shall I do my God to love StF 516

Offertory Prayer

Gracious Lord,  
for all that blesses and enriches our lives,  
we give you thanks.  
May our gratitude be expressed  
in lives of trust and obedience.  
Take us and all that you have given us  
and use us in the service of your Kingdom.  
Amen

Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Reading:

A reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew  
Hear the Gospel of Christ  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour**

**Matthew 4: 1-11**

This is the Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to Christ our Lord**

♪ Jesus tempted in the desert StF 237

Sermon

### **Annual Commissioning of Pastoral Elders**

Today, we commission those who offer themselves for service  
as Pastoral Elders in this Church.

We are the Body of Christ:  
**each of us is a member of it.**

There is one ministry of Christ:  
**in this ministry we all share.**

There are different ways of serving God:  
**it is the same Lord whom we serve.**

Jesus Christ continues his ministry in and through the Church, the whole people of God called and committed to his service. To equip them for this ministry he gives particular gifts, and calls some of his servants to exercise them in offices duly recognised within the Church. Some are called to be Elders. Elders share in the leadership of the local church and the pastoral oversight of its members. In the Elders' Meeting they take counsel together for the whole congregation.

Pastoral Elders are responsible

- for making provision for Christian worship and discipleship;
- for maintaining proper standards of membership;
- and for promoting witness and service to the community, encouraging mission and fostering the peace, unity, and welfare of the Church.

It is their privilege and responsibility, in the name of Christ and on behalf of the whole Church:

- to pray regularly for those in their care;
- to share in their joys;
- and to give comfort and support in time of sorrow and need.

In all these things, they will seek for themselves and for those in their care a deepening experience of God's grace in Christ.

Without God's help no one can exercise this ministry; but the Holy Spirit has been given to us and is our Helper and Counsellor.

## **The Commissioning**

*Please come to the front of church as your name is read*

Sisters and brothers, do you believe that you are called by God through the Church to the work of pastoral care?

***I do so believe.***

Relying on God's grace, will you endeavour to fulfil this ministry?

***With God's help, I will.***

Let us pray.

We thank you, gracious God,  
that you have sent Jesus Christ your Son  
to be our Shepherd and Saviour.

Give to these your servants the power of the Holy Spirit  
and fill them with fresh vision and courage,  
to lead us in the work you have called us to do.

Make them wise with the mind of Christ,  
and give them the gifts they need to fulfil this service faithfully;  
in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Congregation, as you are able please stand*

Members of the Body of Christ, will you encourage these Pastoral Elders in their ministry and support them with your prayers?

**With God's help, we will.**

## **Renewal of Commitment**

And now as Elders and members of this church and congregation, let us confirm our commitment to each other and to the gospel. Let us pursue what makes for peace and build each other up in love.

**We will grow together in humility, gentleness and patience;  
we will nurture each other in faith;  
we will bear with one another in love;  
we will make every effort  
to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit in the bond of peace,  
so that we may faithfully proclaim the gospel of Christ.  
The God of peace will make us complete in everything good.  
To whom be glory for ever.**

Eternal God, accept this commitment made in your presence,  
and give us grace to make it true,  
so that we may not fail you in the end,  
but give you glory  
and honour by the way we live and through  
everything we say and do,  
in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

♪ **O Thou who camest from above** **StF 564i**

**Prayers of Intercession**

♪ **Guide me O Thou great Jehovah** **StF 465**

**Sending Out & Blessing**

