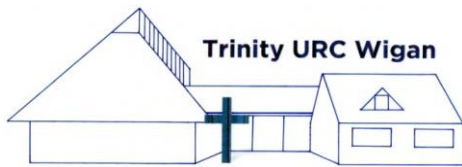


**Trinity United  
Reformed Church  
Wigan**

**[www.trinityurcwigan.org](http://www.trinityurcwigan.org)**



**February 2024 Magazine**



## MISSION STATEMENT

Trinity United Reformed Church, Wigan, seeks to offer and extend the love of God, spiritually, emotionally, supportively and caringly to all people and by doing so to make a positive difference to our neighbourhood and the wider world.

Trinity United Reformed Church, Milton Grove, Wigan. WN1 2PG

Church Tel. 01942 230233

### Church Secretaries:-

Correspondence

Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife

Mob: 07515 286806

Email: mf8116322@gmail.com

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Mrs. Lesley Lowe

Church Treasurer

Mrs. Isabel Hitchen

Tel. 01942 495709

Email: hitchenisabel@gmail.com

Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Martin Ashcroft

*(Please contact Martin via the Church Secretary)*

Safeguarding

Mrs. Sue Ledwidge & The Elders

Lettings Contact

*(Please contact via the Elders)*

Magazine Editor

Mrs. Jennifer Birchall

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Email: jenniferbirchall@btinternet.com

***(Should anyone need to contact Trinity, the Church Secretary and the Elders will be happy to respond. Ed.)***

Trinity's Facebook page <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Trinity-United-Reformed-Church-Wigan/298023660250351>

Dear Friends

More years ago than I care to remember we visited a United Reformed Church in Devon which had been recently built. One end of the church rose to a great height and was made entirely of coloured glass. At the bottom of the window there were a great many colours and then as the window got higher it narrowed and there were far less colours. It was a depiction of our lives. In our younger days we have a multitude of experiences – depicted by the variety of colours in the window and then as we grow older our experiences become smaller hence the lack of different colours in the higher part of the window.

You will read this not long after the beginning of a new year and the number of years that lie behind you will depend on our age. One of the great things about modern phones and ipads is that they allow us to take photographs which are stored on our photo app. Marian and I have had iphones since 2007 and when we open the photo app we can see all the photos we have taken since 2007. It's fascinating, in an idle moment, to scroll through all the photos reminding us how much we and our family have changed through the years, especially our grandchildren; and also remembering the different holidays we have had.

At the beginning of a new year we can do much the same by looking back on our lives, and not least our faith life, and see how the events and experiences we have encountered have changed us and affected our faith.

We not only look back at the beginning of a new year, but we also look forward and wonder how our lives will change in the coming months. Of course we cannot know what is going to happen, and perhaps that is just as well, but we hope that it will be a good year for us and for the life of our church. The Moderators' Meeting has already considered our Pastorate Profile and made it available to any ministers who may be interested.

We hope and pray that whoever God is calling to serve will hear his call and respond in faith.

In hope and faith that the vacancy will be filled in 2025,

Bill Wright

Interim Moderator

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

February 2024

February 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev. Bill Wright, followed by Church Meeting
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Elders' Meeting
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start	Wigan Music Society ( <i>See advert</i> )
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Joint Morning Worship with Wigan Baptist Church, at Trinity, led by Chris Mangham
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Morning Worship led by Trish Reilly
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.45 a.m.	Morning Worship led by Rev. Peter Brown

### RETIRING COLLECTION

The Retiring Collection for February is for Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

### WEEKLY & MONTHLY CLUBS/GROUPS

#### FEBRUARY

Mondays	9.30- 11.30 a.m.	Little Fishes Toddler Group <i>(In school term time)</i>
Mondays	12.00 – 3.00 p.m.	Winter Warmers ( <i>See advert</i> )
Tuesdays	2.00 - 3-00 p.m.	Cuppa and Chinwag - - -
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	Malcolm's Singalong
Tuesdays	7.00 – 9.00 p.m.	Closeknit Craft Club
Wednesdays	6.30 – 7.30 p.m.	Trinity Junior Players
Thursdays	8.00 – 9.00 p.m.	Church Choir Practice

**SUNDAY WORSHIP ROTA FOR ELDERS AND HELPERS**

**FEBRUARY 2024**



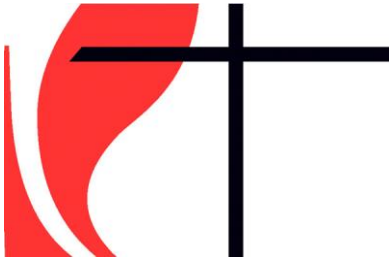

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lead Elder</b>	<b>Hymn Books and Offertory</b>
<b>February 4<sup>th</sup></b>	C. Mangham	L. Lowe
<b>February 11<sup>th</sup></b>	K. Peet	L. Lowe
<b>February 18<sup>th</sup></b>	L. Lowe	P. Harman
<b>February 25<sup>th</sup></b>	M. Garforth-Fife	C. Garforth-Fife

**PLEASE ARRANGE FOR A SUBSTITUTE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO  
DO THE DUTY ON THE ABOVE DATE.**

**THANK YOU.**



## CHURCHES' PARTNERSHIP (WIGAN N.W.) PRAYER DIARY 2024

<p>FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup></p>	 <p>The Parish Priests, congregations and activities at St. Mary's and St. John's Churches</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b>The Chaplains, doctors, nurses, and other staff working for Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh hospital Trust</b></p> 
<p>FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup></p>	 <p>Minister, congregation and activities at Spencer Road Methodist Church</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b>All asylum seekers, refugees and those who make the perilous journey to escape tyranny</b></p> 

## Prayer Partners 2024

‘Prayer Partners 2024 explores through prayers based around ‘Life giving faith, defiant hope and generous love’ - our new strapline.’



## FEBRUARY

### Prayer for Zimbabwe Partners

*By Aulline Chapisa*

Dear God,

We pray for the resilience of our partners who continue to work in a political and economically challenging environment, that they may be strengthened to stand for the truth despite threats to their lives and the existence of their organisations. We also remember beneficiaries of the Christian Aid partners' work in Zimbabwe, that they may be receptive of the education and support offered to them., especially those living in poverty – so that they may escape the trap of poverty and become self-reliant.

We pray for the safety of the Christian Aid partners as they do their work in Zimbabwe during this election year and for peace during general elections. We ask God for wisdom, so that our partners can work in continued shrinking civic space. We pray that our partners continue to strengthen their benevolence and solidarity with people living in poverty. We pray for resources to take the work forward.

Amen.



This prayer has been produced by Commitment for Life.

[www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)

## ISRAEL & THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

Commitment  
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



*Photo: by Hosny Salah (Gazan Photographer) Pixabay*

The United Reformed Church Moderator, the Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, is one of 69 international church leaders who have signed a powerful and moving letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

*It is unacceptable that millions of people are in desperate need of clean water, adequate food, fuel for electricity, and urgently needed medical supplies... We weep with broken hearts as we hear of hospitals, mosques, churches, and schools damaged and destroyed by this war. In Gaza, there is no safe place. There is no refuge. There is no escape.*

**Commitment for Life** supporters agree that the current violence cannot be decontextualised. Gazans have little hope in the face of seven decades of relentless disenfranchisement. Three-quarters of Gazans are refugees dating back to 1948. Gaza has become an open-air prison, according to Human Rights Watch. Illegal settlements expand every day in the West Bank. Illegal Israeli settlers act with impunity, attack Palestinians, and force the indigenous people from their ancestral lands. Nevertheless, none of this should be used to justify the violence used by either Hamas or Israel in pursuit of political objectives.

**Commitment for Life** has been supporting Christian Aid partners in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory for well over 30 years. It is precisely these kinds of long-term, sustained partnerships that provide concrete examples of how to break out of vicious cycles of violence and retribution. **Please continue to pray. Let's not give up hope but continue in faithfulness to trust in God for justice for all.**

**Source: Commitment for Life – IOPT Moving Stories, January/February 2024**





Commitment  
for **Life**

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

The following is taken from a letter dated 19 December 2023 from Suzanne Pearson, Administrative Assistant, thanking us for our annual donation to Commitment for Life.

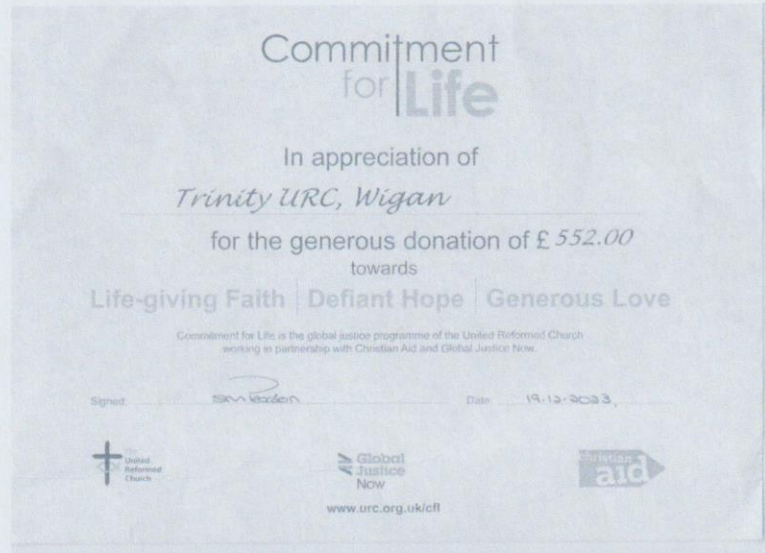
Remittance from Trinity Wigan 03B45

We are most grateful for your congregation's kind donation of **£552.00** to Commitment for Life. Please find enclosed a certificate to display on your church notice board thanking the congregation. Your continued generosity towards our support for **Christian Aid** and **Global Justice Now** is much appreciated.

Your contributions make an enormous and practical difference to our partner communities. Your prayers, activism & generosity are a wonderful demonstration of 'life giving faith, defiant hope and generous love'.

With grateful thanks,

Suzanne Pearson  
Administrative Assistant



If anyone would like more information on giving to Commitment for Life please contact Pat Harman (Link person for Commitment for Life at Trinity URC)

## MESSAGE FROM JUDITH



“It’s a long time since I saw this! Frost patterns - so beautiful.”



## **CALLING ALL SINGERS**

The choir will be leading morning worship on  
**PALM SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

If you are willing and able to sing, then please come along to the rehearsals,  
which start on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 8.00 p.m.

**Martin and the Choir**



# Cuppa & Chinwag

**Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife will be entertaining those at Cuppa & Chinwag on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February by singing a variety of songs, old and new.**

**Do come and join in at 2.00 'til 3.00 p.m. on the day.**

**Hot drinks with biscuits/cake will be served – donations accepted.**



# Trinity URC Wigan Milton Grove



## Winter Warmers

Every **Monday** to the end of February

12 noon to 3 p.m.

Home-made soup and a sandwich, tea and coffee in a warm space

Free of charge, donations accepted

Tuesdays at Wigan Baptist Church (times may vary)

Wednesdays at St. Michael's, Swinley (times may vary)



Warm Hubs  
Greater Manchester

presents...

# Lorna Day - Mezzo and Olivia Dance - Piano

Madeline Dring Centenary Concert



**Saturday 10th February 2024**

7:00 pm for 7:30 pm Start

Trinity United Reformed Church, Milton  
Grove, Wigan, WN1 2PG

Tickets at the door or On-Line: Members £8 Guests £10,  
Students £5 or scan the code below.



Further details at : [www.wiganmusic.org.uk](http://www.wiganmusic.org.uk)

Trinity URC Wigan

Milton Grove

WN1 2PG

# Family Quiz Friday 1st March at 7 pm



Light refreshments served at interval, BYOB

Entry: £5 per adult, children free

Recommended maximum team size: 6 adults, unlimited children



