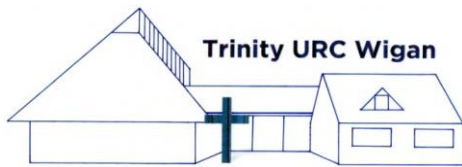


**Trinity United  
Reformed Church  
Wigan**

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



**March 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.

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***(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>

## Easter Greetings

Lent is upon us! It doesn't seem like any time since we celebrated Christmas, but Easter is looming on the horizon. We have started our Lent studies and I am sure we are going to experience the low and the high of the Easter celebrations.

When we arrive at Easter morning we will hear the "standard" greeting:  
Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

This declaration is familiar in many churches. As a triumphant statement of Christ's victory over the grave, it is a bold message for all to hear on Easter morning.

[Gotquestions.org](http://Gotquestions.org) claims that this traditional Easter greeting in the Western church has sometimes been accompanied by the exchange of three kisses on alternate cheeks. Apparently a very old custom, it is sometimes called the Paschal greeting.

This greeting may have been derived from Luke 24:5. Here, the women discover the angels at the tomb on the third day. And what do the angels tell the frightened women? "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" The women do not give the current expected response. They instead flee away to tell the apostles. The apostles, when told of the experience, also do not give the current expected response. Instead of the joyous wonder of, "He is risen indeed", they don't believe the women, saying their story is nonsense.

Next time you are asked to give the current standard greeting on Easter and it seems a bit stale, imagine yourself at the tomb on that bright, shining morning with the light of the angels overwhelming your senses and the presence of God gloriously filling the entrance to the tomb. Those who were privileged to be there didn't know what we know and so didn't receive the message. But we who know the results of this wonder - the appearances of Jesus, the conversion of Paul, etc. can go back in our imagination to that first day of the week and experience it. Let it be the first time. But this time with no fear and no doubt.

Have a wonderful Easter!

In Christ

Malcolm

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### March 2024

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.00 p.m.	Family Quiz
<b>March 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by Steven Mitchell, Synod Children and Youth officer</b>
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Elders' Meeting
<b>March 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>All day</b>	<b>Mersey Synod Meeting</b>
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday – All Age Communion Service led by the Elders and the Worship Group</b>
<b>March 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by Mary Foley</b>
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Palm Sunday Service led by the Choir</b>
<b>March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Easter Sunday Worship led by Rev. Malcolm Garforth -Fife</b>

### WEEKLY & MONTHLY CLUBS/GROUPS

#### MARCH

Mondays	9.30- 11.30 a.m.	Little Fishes Toddler Group <i>(In school term time)</i>
Tuesdays	2.00 - 3-00 p.m.	Cuppa and Chinwag
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	Malcolm's Easter 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

MARCH 2024

Date	Lead Elder	Hymn Books and Offertory
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	C. Mangham	L. Lowe
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Mothing</u></b> K. Peet <b>All Age Service with</b>	<b><u>Sunday</u></b> G. Lowe <b>Communion</b>
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	L. Lowe	P. Harman
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Palm</u></b> M. Garforth-Fife	<b><u>Sunday</u></b> C. Garforth-Fife
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b><u>Easter</u></b> C. Mangham	<b><u>Sunday</u></b> 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><b>MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup></b></p>	<p>The Vicar, congregation and activities at St. Michael and All Angels Church.</p>	
<p><b>MARCH 10<sup>th</sup></b></p>		<p>Those helping people to overcome addiction, - Alcoholics Anonymous and the drug and alcohol teams</p>
<p><b>MARCH 17<sup>th</sup></b></p>	<p>The Elders, congregation and activities at Trinity United Reformed Church</p>	
<p><b>MARCH 24<sup>th</sup></b></p>		<p>Those who work in local government including the local Councillors and those who work in the Civil Service</p>
<p><b>MARCH 31<sup>st</sup></b></p>	<p>The Vicar and activities at the Gateway Church</p>	

## Prayer Partners 2024

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



## MARCH

### Prayer for

*By Christine McMillian*

Creator God,

We thank You for the wonderful world we inhabit.

We are sorry that we don't always share the good things that we have.

We thank You for all the people;

those in our Churches

those working through Christian Aid

and those for Global Justice Now

who strive tirelessly to make things fairer for us all.

We know that it is not easy, that folk become tired and dispirited.

Loving God

Inspire us, renew our determination and commitment,

so that together we may all enjoy life in all its fullness.

Amen.



This prayer has been produced by Commitment for Life. [www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)

### **A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM LYNN**

I'd like to say a big thank you for the flowers, cards, messages and thoughts over the last few weeks.

You are all so very kind and I am thankful to know you and feel privileged to belong to this Church.

Thank you.

Lynn

### **CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS**

Congratulations to Neil and Luke who both celebrate significant birthdays this year. Enjoy your special day both of you!

Best wishes from Trinity Church Family.

### **STAMPS**

Whilst sorting out items in the foyer last year I tried to sort out where the stamps that had been collected could be sent. After months of emails to RNIB and getting nowhere I decided to look at alternative charities. After agreement from the Elders it was decided that we would support MND, as it is such a horrible disease. To that end I posted the stamps this week. If you collect any stamps in the future will you please put them in the appropriate box and when we have enough I will forward them. If possible I would appreciate as little envelope surround as possible, to save me having to cut round them.

Thank you,  
Lesley



## **CAN YOU HELP?**

### **MAGAZINE NEWSLETTERS**

Normally the Church Minister would write the newsletter in their Church Magazine. As we have no Minister at Trinity at present, the Elders have taken over this role.

I feel that the newsletter is an important start to our magazine, reflecting on the special times in our Church calendar or on what is happening in the world, good or bad.

If you feel able to contribute by writing just one newsletter, please let me know. We currently have no-one down to write the newsletter from May to December this year.

Please think about it.

Jenny

### **RETIRING COLLECTIONS**

Once a month we aim to have a Retiring Collection for a worthy charity. This can be local, country wide or worldwide. If there is a charity that you feel very strongly about, please let one of the Elders know. You then have the option of either speaking about this charity yourself or one of the Elders can do this for you.

If you are going to speak about this yourself, then please also send for a gift aid sheet for members of the congregation to complete and then give this to Isabel who will send off the money. If you are informing an Elder of your choice of charity, then they or another Elder will speak about the charity and contact them for the gift aid form.

Your help and support will be greatly appreciated. We have gaps in this list for this month and then from June to December.

Jenny

# Cuppa & Chinwag



**Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife will be entertaining those at Cuppa & Chinwag on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March by singing a variety of hymns and songs on the theme of Easter.**

**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.**

**Happy Easter Everyone**

