

# **Trinity United Reformed Church Wigan**

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



**January 2025 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

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*(Please contact Martin via the Church Secretary)*

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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>

## January 2025

Here we are at the start of a new year, taking down the Christmas decorations and packing them away until the next Advent season. The angel Gabriel, the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus have been celebrated and we now focus on events immediately after the birth of the Christ-child.

The shepherds tending their flocks under the night sky were visited by angels and told the good news of the birth of God's son. Is it significant that this first group of people to be told of the Saviour's birth were not the wealthy elite, but the poorest (and least respected) members of society, the shepherds?

The wise men from the East are journeying, guided by a star that shone brightly over Bethlehem, to pay homage to the new-born child. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh:

- Gold, a symbol of kingship, because Jesus - as Pontius Pilate was to write on the inscription on the cross – was King of the Jews.
- Frankincense, a symbol of deity, because Jesus – as the disciples acknowledged – was the Son of God.
- Myrrh, an anointing oil and symbol of death, because Jesus – as history records – was crucified on a hill outside Jerusalem.

The wise men had chosen their gifts carefully and made the long journey in the hope that they would get to see the promised Messiah, the Saviour of the world. Surely the wise men must have taken some time to plan their journey, to decide on gifts and purchase the gifts. They set out in faith, and in hope, that their journey would be worthwhile.

And so we continue our faith journey into another year.....

Perhaps we too, like the wise men, need a plan, and perhaps we should consider what gifts we have that we can offer the King.

Having hopes and plans for the year ahead may stop us from merely 'doing what we have always done'. Perhaps we should ask, "God, is there something that you want me to do differently this year?"

Is there a job vacancy in our church family that you are well qualified to do?

Is there a volunteering opportunity in your neighbourhood?

Or perhaps the answer is "For the moment, continue working, serving and caring in the way that you are, where the need is most obvious"

Whatever plans we have for the New Year, may God bless us in our service and may we be a beacon of hope to those around us.

Happy New Year!

Chris

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES, MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### JANUARY 2025

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Worship with Communion and Induction of Elders</b> <b>led by Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife</b>
8 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Elders' Meeting
9 <sup>th</sup>	6.45 p.m.	Bible Discussion Meeting
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by Mary Foley</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts</b>
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by Chris Mangham</b>

## WEEKLY & MONTHLY CLUBS/GROUPS

### JANUARY 2025

*(Please note that clubs and groups will be closed for two weeks over Christmas and New Year so from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025.)*

Mondays            9.30- 11.30 a.m.            Little Fishes Toddler Group (School term time)

*(Re-opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January)*

Mondays 12.00 noon – 2.30 p.m.            Winter Warmers  
*(Re-opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January)*

Tuesdays            2.00 - 3.00 p.m.            Cuppa and Chinwag  
*(Re-opens on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January)*

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>            2.00 – 3.00 p.m.            C&CW Malcolm's Singalong  
*(Malcolm's next Singalong will be in February)*

Tuesdays            7.00 – 9.00 p.m.            Closeknit Craft Club  
*(Re-opens on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January)*

Wednesdays            6.30 – 7.30 p.m.            Trinity Junior Players

Thursdays            8.00 – 9.00 p.m.            Church Choir Practice  
*(Choir Practice restarts on 16<sup>th</sup> January)*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP ROTA FOR ELDERS AND HELPERS**  
**JANUARY 2025**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lead Elder</b>	<b>Hymn Books</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	L. Lowe	K. Peet
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	P. Reilly	L. Heys
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	K. Peet	L. Heys
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	P. Reilly	L. Lowe

**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 2025

JANUARY 5 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>At the start of a new year, pray for peace in the town, the country and in the world</b></p>	
JANUARY 12 <sup>th</sup>		<p>All those involved in education remembering especially those schools in the area of the Churches Partnership</p>
JANUARY 19 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Churches in the Churches Partnership that all may be seen to be working together to proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord</b></p>	
JANUARY 26 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The Minister, Deacons, congregation and activities at Wigan Baptist Church</p>

## Prayer Partners 2025

‘Prayer Partners 2025 explores through prayers based around ‘Life giving faith, defiant hope and generous love’ - our new strapline.’



## JANUARY

### Prayer for Zimbabwe

1. Pray for resources for Christian Aid in Zimbabwe as they work on climate change and livelihood resilience.
2. Pray for those affected by drought that God will provide for them.
3. Pray for Christian Aid staff members in Zimbabwe – for protection, wisdom, strength and team cohesion to do the work.

These prayers have been produced by Commitment for Life. [www.cforl.org.uk](http://www.cforl.org.uk)



## THE 'MITE SCHEME' CHANGING TO 'SILVER SAVERS'

The church recently received a letter from the organiser of the Mite scheme to say that the scheme was closing at the end of this year. Paul Maiden, who administered the scheme in our church, is writing to the organiser to thank them for their many years of faithful collecting.

The mites, or 5p pieces, were collected at each Sunday service in the two tins, one tin representing salt and the other tin, sugar. The money collected was sent by Paul to the central organiser, who then sends the money to UNICEF where it is used to buy salt/sugar sachets that are used in the treatment of dehydration and malnutrition.

Paul has kindly volunteered to continue to collect donations, and will send the money directly to UNICEF.

With the decline in the use of cash in society, rather than just 5p pieces, we will be accepting any silver coinage (5p, 10p, 20p, 50p) and our scheme becomes 'Silver Savers' as the money raised literally saves lives.

Thanks for your continued support and thanks to Paul for administering this aspect of our giving.

The Elders



## **BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE IN JANUARY**

Jenny Birchall

Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife

Fiona Grady

Thomas Mangham

Janine Gay

Glenda Lowe

Andrew Gay

*To those who celebrate their birthdays during January, we send our greetings.*



## **FLOWERS FOR JANUARY**

*(Arranger Sandra Garston )*

5<sup>th</sup> [ ]

12<sup>th</sup> Sybil and Lesley in memory of Bill

19<sup>th</sup> Bob and Sylvia Inglis in memory of Diane

26<sup>th</sup> Isabel Hitchen - anniversary flowers



## **RETIRING COLLECTION**

The Retiring Collection in January is for the Green Fingers Charity.

**Family Nativity Service**  
**Sunday December 15th 2024**



**“It was on a starry night!”**

Well, It was a grey Sunday morning when Trinity held its Family Nativity Service, but there was a feeling of joy as the Christmas story was retold, through prayers, bible readings, enacting and carols accompanied by organ and guitar.

Trinity have been delighted to welcome young people from Trinity Junior Players and members of our own Children’s Corner to be a part of the celebration. Three rehearsals and with the assistance of the young at heart, current and past Leaders and members of our Trinity Junior and Youth Church, everyone was ready to sing and present the story of Christ’s birth once more.

It was lovely to hear the young voices as they sang the carols “It was on a starry night” and “Come and join the celebration” with Malcolm on the guitar.

The PowerPoint presentation on our screens- by Chris- displayed the Order of Service, the words of the carols and graphics to link the scenes of the Nativity story and added a new dimension to our Worship.

Thank you to everyone who came to join in this morning. It was wonderful to see mums, dads, grandparents and little children.

Thanks must go to all who helped to create a lovely retelling of the Nativity.

I end with the blessing said by the young people to conclude the service:

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the kindness of the innkeeper and the peace of the Christ Child, this day and always. Amen.

Trish Reilly

Junior and Youth Church Leader

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## **NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS**

Do you know the location of the nearest public access defibrillator to your home without looking online on The Circuit?

If not make it on your New Year Resolutions the first item and make it a family visit, by car and on foot.

Bernard Powell, Southport.



Registered Charity No. 1050223

proudly presents...

# Elinor Nicholson - Harp Jenny Dyson - Flute



With works by Andy Scott, Arvo Pärt, Bach, Jongen,  
Ravel, Piazzola, Alwyn and Rochester Young

**Saturday 25th January 2025**

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 £10 Guests £15,  
Students £5 at the door or scan the code below.



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



**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!**