

**Trinity
United Reformed Church
Wigan**

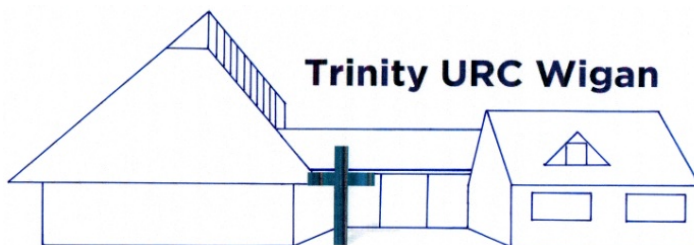
www.trinityurcwigan.org



December 2025

Our Mission Statement

Trinity United Reformed Church, Wigan, seeks to offer and extend the love of God 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

Website trinityurcwigan.org

Find us on **Facebook**..... Trinity United Reformed Church, Wigan

Church Secretaries

Correspondence Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife Mob: 07515 286806
Email: secretary@trinityurcwigan.org

Minutes Mrs. Lesley Lowe

Church Treasurer Contact the elders
Email: secretary@trinityurcwigan.org

Organist & Choirmaster Dr. Martin Ashcroft
(Please contact Martin via the Church Secretary)

Safeguarding Mrs. Sue Ledwidge & The Elders

Lettings Email Contact lettings@trinityurcwigan.org

December Newsletter

Dear Friends

Imagine a scene where you are in a country that has been invaded by a dominant empire led by a despot. The regime there is oppressive with justice often arbitrary. The country is ruled by a King that is a placeman for the empire. He rules in a brutal way. In order to preserve themselves, the religious leaders make token protests against the system, whilst at the same time mostly siding with the authorities. The tax regime levied by the empire is punitive and augmented by temple taxes. Insurrection of any kind is dealt with quickly and ruthlessly, punishment is swift, public and sadistic.

At least in part, this might describe some parts of the world today. But, in actual fact I am describing Palestine at the time of Jesus' birth. It is very different from the Bethlehem of Victorian tableaux. Nonetheless it is the scene of the birth of the Son of God. In the midst of this scene of oppression and misery, God chooses to intervene.

The intervention comes, not through a display of power and might, intended to shake the foundations of the empire and cause the oppressors to cower. Instead it comes through the birth of a baby to a displaced couple in an outbuilding.

This baby will grow up to be the "Prince of Peace" - this was a title afforded to the Roman Emperor Augustus. However his peace, the "pax Romana" was brought through force. Instead Jesus' peace is the peace of God – a very different proposition. It's a peace born of Love.

There are many places in the world today that need that form of peace. The fact that Jesus was born in the manner that he was brings hope out of despair. It shows that God is there for the people on the margins and the victims of oppression.

This brings hope 2,000 years later. And, as the hands and feet of Christ, we Christians can still bring hope and peace to the world. As we celebrate the birth of Christ once more, let us do so by seeking to be peacemakers, showing the love of God to the world.

Rev Peter Lyth, Interim Moderator

Church Family News

We give thanks for those who continue to recover after a period of hospitalisation, and we pray for those who are currently in hospital.

We remember those who are not able to join us for Sunday worship, but who remain an integral part of our fellowship. If anyone would like to celebrate communion at home, this can be arranged by speaking to one of the elders.

Church Quiz

Thank you to all who supported the quiz evening, which raised £300 for church funds.

It was good to be joined by teams from Spencer Road Methodist Church, Wigan Baptist Church and Wigan Ramblers in addition to church members and their friends.

The winning team were Multigen, a multi-generational mixture of Watsons, Seddons and Reillys. Congratulations on a stunning performance!

Chris M, Quizmaster

Remembrance Sunday

Thanks to Malcolm for leading our worship and act of remembrance on Sunday 9th November.

Thanks also to closeknit group and those who made the displays of poppies.



Calendar of events for December

Sunday 30th November	10.45am	Advent Carol Service led by The Choir
Tuesday 2nd December	7pm	Management Meeting
Wednesday 3rd December	11am	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 7th December	10.45 a.m.	Morning Worship and Toy Service led by Rev Malcolm Garforth-Fife
Sunday 14th December	10.45 a.m.	Nativity Service led by Junior Church and Young People
Friday 19th December	7.30pm	Concert by Wigan Music Service in aid of The Christie
Sunday 21st December	10.45 a.m.	Carol Service led by The Choir
Wednesday 24th December	3pm	Crib Service for toddlers and young at heart
Thursday 25th December	10.30am	Christmas Day Service led by Rev Malcolm Garforth-Fife
Sunday 28th December	10.45 a.m.	Morning Worship led by the Worship Group

Retiring Collection

Our retiring collection for December will be for Shelter, a charity that works with homeless people. This will be taken on Sunday December 7th

Regular Weekly Groups

(No meetings from Mon 22nd Dec to Fri 2nd Jan)

Monday	9.30am – 11.30am	Little Fishes Toddler Group <i>(In school term time)</i>
Monday	12pm – 2.30pm	Winter Warmers (warm hub)
Tuesday	2pm – 3pm	Cuppa and Chinwag
Tuesday	7pm – 9pm	Closeknit Craft Club
Wednesday	6.30pm – 8pm	Trinity Junior Players
Thursday	8pm – 9pm	Choir Practice

Sunday Worship Rota for December

Date	Lead Elder	Helper	Children's Corner
7 th December	Katrina	Lesley	Gill
14 th December	Lesley	Glenda	Colouring Pages available
21 st December	Trish	Glenda	Sue
28 th December	Glenda	Trish	Colouring Pages available

Coffee Rota

7 th December	Marion Buckley	Susan Chesney
14 th December	Lesley Lowe	Joan Ashcroft
21 st December	Susan Winstanley	Denise Currie
28 th December	Lynn Heys	Gill Mangham

Please arrange for a substitute if you are unavailable

Organ Music Played In November 2025

2 November

Choir: Fight the Good Fight (John Gardner)
Organ: Incantation pour un jour Sant (Langlais)

9 November

Choir: Peace, perfect peace (Gibbons)
Organ: Dambusters' March (Eric Coates)

16 November

Fantasia in G Minor BWV542 J S Bach

23 November

The Lost Chord Arthur Sullivan





30 November (Advent Sunday)

Choir: Zion, at your shining gate George Guest
Remember, o thou man Ravenscroft
Song of Mary Richard Shepherd

Organ: Fiat Lux Dubois



Churches Partnership (Wigan NW) Prayer Diary 2025

<p>7th December</p>	<p>For all youth organisations in the borough</p> 
<p>14th December</p>	<p>For those working in shops and for those shopping, that they might remember the Reason for the Season</p> 
<p>21st December</p>	<p>For all hospital staff, emergency services and utilities workers who will be working over the Christmas and New Year period</p> 
<p>28th December</p>	<p>As we approach New Year, that the world might become a better and more peaceful place</p> 

Baking bread to cope with crisis

Gaza continues to be in the grip of a profound humanitarian emergency. Israel's blockade of food, fuel, medicine and essentials has left people on the brink of famine.

The relentless military offensive has killed over 65,000 people and displaced almost 2 million more. In recent months accessing aid has become incredibly difficult and dangerous. Women, and especially widows are struggling to access what they need for their families.



Women are baking bread for their families and community amid a food scarcity crisis, providing much needed dignity as well as nutrition.

Christian Aid's partner, the Women's Affairs Centre (WAC) have started a clay ovens initiative to help meet the urgent need for food and to provide hope and opportunities for women.

As part of the initiative, women have taken full responsibility for supervising all stages of the project which reflects the resilience and capacity of the community in responding to their circumstances.

The ovens and the ingredients are provided by WAC. This allows widows in the community to access the oven and bake bread which is then sold at a symbolic price (below the inflated prices seen across Gaza).

The women involved in the project have spoken about what this initiative has meant to them.

"After losing our home and sense of security, even a loaf of bread became a dream... The Clay Ovens initiative brought back a part of our lives and restored our feeling that we can provide for our children with dignity."

"We used to wait in line for hours at the ovens and sometimes return empty-handed... Now the fire is ours, the bread comes from our own hands, and the joy in our children's eyes is greater than anything."

"The bread we once struggled to find now comes out of our hands... The Clay Ovens initiative not only filled our stomachs but also filled our hearts with hope."

Thank you for your continued support and prayer which is providing food and a sense of hope and dignity to women living through the crisis in Gaza.

www.bit.ly/URCFL

Facebook @comm4life

Commitment For Life, 86 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RT Tel 020 7916 8638

Birthdays To Celebrate In December

Jack Gay
Susan Chesney
Janet Dixon
Marian Buckley
Joseph Chesney
Louise Birchall
Shirley Wilson
Judith Dawber
Joan Ashcroft
Chris Mangham



To those who celebrate their birthdays during December, we send our best wishes, and congratulations to Susan Chesney on your 'special' birthday.

Flowers For December

(Arranger Glenda Lowe)

7th Michael Austin in memory of Jack and Lily Austin

14th Chris Garforth-Fife in memory of his parents

21st Dave and Judith Watson and Dave and Carol Tyldesley in memory of parents

28th Margaret Ashcroft in memory of Frank



Thank you to everyone who has donated money for the flowers in church over the last year, and to the team of arrangers for the beautiful displays.

The flowers enhance our worship with their beauty and give joy and love to the people who receive them each week.

If anyone would like to donate, join the team of arrangers or change the list for 2026, please speak to Glenda.

With thanks and appreciation,

Glenda and team

Cuppa & Chinwag



Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife will be entertaining those at Cuppa & Chinwag on Tuesday 9th December by singing a variety of songs.

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.





AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

AN ASSORTMENT OF LIGHT AND TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC
PERFORMED BY LOCAL MUSICIANS IN AID OF 'THE CHRISTIE'



ALL TICKETS £5
ON THE DOOR
[cash only]



Friday 19th December

7:30PM

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



The
**United
Reformed
Church**