

**Trinity
United Reformed Church
Wigan**

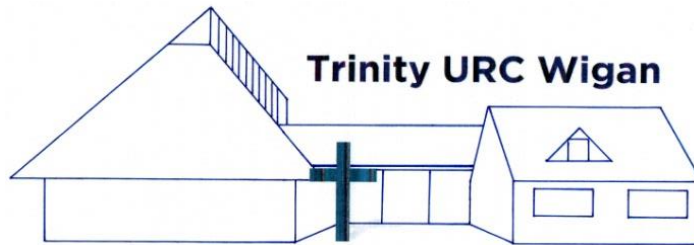
www.trinityurcwigan.org



January 2026

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 Please contact the elders

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

Safeguarding Mrs. Sue Ledwidge & The Elders

Lettings Email Contact lettings@trinityurcwigan.org

January Newsletter

New Year, New Start: God's Faithfulness for the Journey Ahead

As one year turns into another, many of us find ourselves pausing to reflect. The New Year often brings mixed emotions: gratitude for joys experienced, sadness for losses endured, relief that difficult seasons have passed, and uncertainty about what lies ahead. In the midst of all this, the New Year also offers us something precious — a sense of new beginning.

In the Christian tradition, new starts are not about pretending the past didn't happen, nor about mustering fresh energy through sheer willpower. Instead, they are rooted in God's faithfulness. As the prophet Jeremiah reminds us, "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning*". A New Year is not a blank page we must fill alone, but a continuing story in which God is already present.

For us as a URC congregation, this New Year invites us to renew our trust in God's ongoing work among us. We are a Church shaped by faith, freedom and commitment — values that speak powerfully into times of change. A new start does not mean abandoning who we are; rather, it means listening again for where God may be calling us next.

Individually, the New Year can be a moment to reconnect with God in simple, life-giving ways. Perhaps it is setting aside a few minutes each day for prayer, returning to Scripture, or finding space for quiet reflection. These are not resolutions to be ticked off, but gentle practices that help us notice God's presence in everyday life.

Together, as a church community, a new start may mean deepening relationships, welcoming new faces, or finding fresh ways to serve our neighbourhood. The URC has always understood mission as something we share — discerning together how God's love can be made visible through justice, hospitality and care for one another. Each small act of kindness, each conversation, each prayer offered contributes to God's renewing work.

Importantly, a New Year, New Start does not require us to have everything figured out. Faith is not about certainty, but about trust — trusting that God walks with us through all seasons, known and unknown. As we step into this New Year, we do so not alone, but held by grace.

May this year be one in which we notice God's new mercies, respond with courage, and continue to grow as a community shaped by Christ's love. Whatever the year brings, may we move forward together, confident that God, who has been faithful in the past, will be faithful still.

I hope that this New Year will be prosperous and positive for all.

Yours in Christ

Malcolm

Thank You from the Elders

You may be aware that two of our members have, towards the end of 2025, had to step down from roles that they have held within the church for many years.

Because of personal circumstances our magazine editor, Jennifer Birchall, has had to relinquish her role. Her valuable work in communicating news, information and items of interest to the congregation has been enjoyed by all who receive the monthly publication, now sent digitally.

It takes time and effort compiling the information and formatting into the magazine we receive. So, a big thank you, Jen.

Again, because of a change in personal circumstances, Isabel Hitchen has had to step down from her position as Treasurer.

Isabel has been our Treasurer for many years, a role not easy to undertake with all that it entails. She has worked tirelessly, managing our finances and ensuring Trinity's financial position remains secure. This role is demanding of time, energy and a watchful eye on the future. So, thank you very much Isabel.

We will continue to hold you both in our prayers.

The Elders

Church Family News

It is with much sadness that we heard that Michael Austin passed away on Sunday 21st December. His family were able to be with him. Michael will be greatly missed for his lifelong contribution to church, through management committee, and in his support of church services, church shows, Trinity Junior Players, pantomimes and social events. We send our love and sympathy to Stephen, Lynne, Gary, Eveline and the family.

Congratulations to Al and Jenna Moore on the birth of their second son, Henry Arnold Stanley on 5th December, weighing 6lb 7oz. Henry is a brother to Alfie, a 2nd grandson for Jan and Andrew and a 2nd great grandson for Lillian. Henry is currently receiving care in Alder Hey hospital and we send our love and prayers to the family.

Congratulations to Louise Birchall and Stuart Adams on their engagement.

Congratulations to Sarah Mangham and Rory Monon on their engagement (at Grasmere just before Christmas).

We pray for those who are currently in hospital and for those undergoing tests and treatment.

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.

New Magazine Editor

Just in case the jungle drums haven't been effective, I thought I should introduce myself as the new magazine editor. If you have any suggestions or items for inclusion, I'm happy to run these past the editorial panel.

Happy New Year!

Chris M

Christmas at Trinity (a reflection by Trish Reilly)

A look back through Advent and the Christmas season here at Trinity

November 29th The Christmas Fayre

Preparations for our Fayre began as long ago as August! The team worked co-opting people to be a part of the event. The result on the day was excellent. A visit to see Father Christmas was enjoyed by a number of little ones.



The craft stall run by a member of Closeknit and her husband sold quite a number of knitted and crocheted items.

The cake stall, as always, was popular and all the produce was sold.



The raffle hampers had been beautifully prepared and tickets sold fast. The kitchen team provided delicious bacon and/or sausage barmcakes with a drink and maybe a mince pie.



The atmosphere in the foyer was wonderful with old and young alike sharing food and time together.

A very successful event, raising £662

for Church funds. A huge thank you to all who planned, prepared and served the food and to all who supported the event.

Sunday November 30th

At the start of the Advent season the Choir, once again, led our Worship and the service is prepared by our Choirmaster who is our Organist, Martin. It is always good to see that the Choir is joined by people who love singing and being part of the Choir in this season.

Once the candle of Hope was lit, the theme - Out of Darkness into Light- was presented with music, readings, prayers and a talk by our Choirmaster. It was a lovely, thoughtful service and we are so grateful to everyone who was involved.



Sunday December 7th

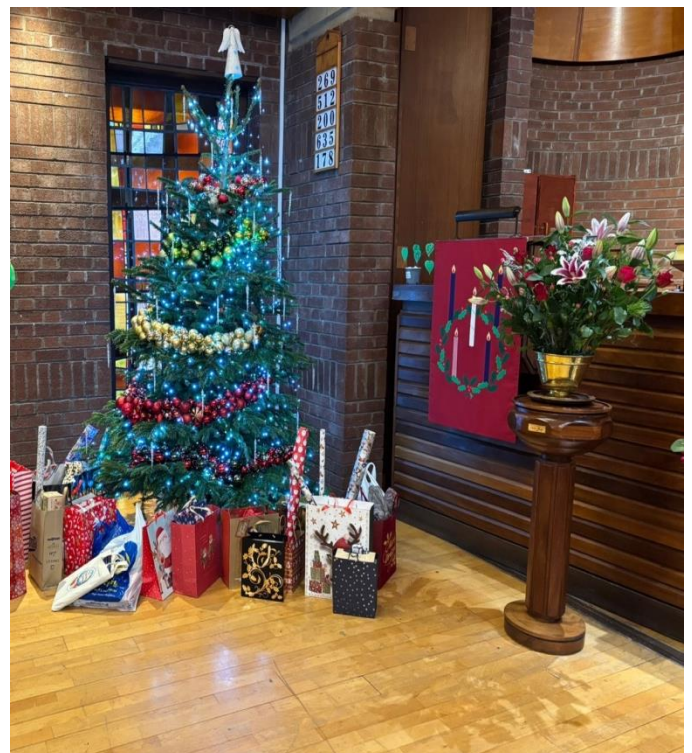


The candle lit on this day was one for Peace, something that we all know is needed in our world today.

Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife led Worship which included the sharing of Communion.

The congregation also had the opportunity to donate to the charity for the homeless- Shelter. This collection was to continue for the next two weeks.

Over the last few years, at this time of giving, toys and gifts have been collected by the Brick to help those in need in our community. It was good to see the gifts under the tree. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.



Tuesday December 9th



This was the day of the Closeknit Party, which is when all the knitters down their needles and bring items for our buffet. However, there was a change this year- we didn't have our usual sketches, due to absence of cast members and paper plates were deemed too small to hold the delights on offer, so, look what was used! Wonderful!



Sunday December 14th

Our Family Nativity Service was a little different this year, as those of you who came would have noticed. Ideas frequently change and they did! Some members of Church were invited to join the cast- especially those who are

young at heart. The theme was the angels as messengers and the candle of Joy was lit. Little knitted angels were given out to the congregation in a gift bag with the words 'Joy to the World' as a reminder of the service and all that the spirit of Christmas brings.

A big thank you for the angels must go to all the Closeknitters who had been very busy during November.



Sunday December 21st



Christmas fast approaching meant that our traditional Service of nine Lessons and Carols was upon us. The candle for this Sunday was the Candle of Love and the first Carol was 'Love came down at Christmas'.

The regular choir, plus extras, had practised each Thursday, bar one, and it was a joy to listen to them.

Our readers ranged in age from 20 to 85, all willing to take their part.

Many friends, old and new, joined the Church Family for a truly wonderful experience and a most fitting and moving service in memory of Walter Ashcroft.

Christmas Eve

At 3pm Trinity welcomed families to the Crib Service, some of whom have been coming for at least the last six, or more years. They said for them it is the real start of Christmas.



This year, though few in number and, for some, in stature, the children gladly joined in setting up our crib in front of the Communion table, enjoying being actively involved, which brought smiles to everyone's faces.

Members of our Music Group played and sang the chosen songs and once again angel gifts were given.

After wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas, all went home ready to welcome the Christ Child the following day.



The Elders would like to thank everyone who prepared, led, participated in and supported any or all of our Advent and Christmas events and Services this year.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre was a very enjoyable event, with a good attendance, especially from families with links to Little Fishes, Babyballet and Jiggy Wrighlers.

Here's the breakdown of funds raised:

Craft Stall	£167
Cake Stall	£110
Father Christmas	£43
Raffle	£193
Kitchen	£149
Total	£662

A big thank you to all who contributed their time and talents and to all who came to support.

Calendar of events for January

Sunday 4th January	10.45am	Morning Worship with Communion and Induction of Elders led by Rev Malcolm Garforth-Fife
Tuesday TBA	7pm	Management Meeting
Wednesday 7th January	11am	Elders' Meeting
Sunday 11th January	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Rev Barbara Bridges
Sunday 18th January	10.45am.	Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts
Saturday 24th January	3pm	Wigan Music Society Concert
Sunday 25th January	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Stephen Austin

Retiring Collection

Our retiring collection for January will be for the Commitment for Life appeal for those suffering following the devastation caused in Jamaica by Hurricane Melissa at the end of October last year.

The retiring collection will be taken after the service on January 4th.

Retiring Collections for Last Year, 2025

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the retiring collections during 2025. We try to support a variety of charitable causes, some local, some national and some overseas.

Last year's charities were:

Green Fingers

MENCAP

Dementia Support

Derian House

Wigan and Leigh Hospice

DEC Myanmar appeal

Air Ambulance

Mercy Ships

Help for Heroes

Shelter

If you would like to suggest a charity to support in 2026, please speak to any of the elders.

Regular Weekly Groups

(Restarting Monday 5th 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 January

Date	Lead Elder	Helper	Children's Corner
4 th January	Katrina	Glenda	Sue
11 th January	Lesley	Trish	Glenda
18 th January	Chris	Katrina	Gill
25 th January	Trish	Lesley	Sue

Coffee Rota

4 th January	Marion Buckley	Nina
11 th January	Lesley Lowe	Joan Ashcroft
18 th January	Susan Winstanley	Denise Currie
25 th January	Lynn Heys	Gill Mangham

Please arrange for a substitute if you are unavailable

Organ Music Played In December 2025

14 December

Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson

21 December

Choir

Love came down at Christmas	R O Morris
A Virgin most pure	C Wood
Myn Liking	R R Terry
An old Carol	Roger Quilter
Away in a manger	
Torches	John Joubert
On Christmas Night	John Rutter
Sing Aloud!	Holst

Organ

Toccata Von Himmel Hoch (from Heaven above) Garth Edmundson

28 December

Chorale Prelude Von Himmel Hoch BWV606 J S Bach



Thanks to all those who joined the choir for the Advent carol service and Christmas carol service.

Choir practices re-start in the New Year on Thursday 15th January 2026

The Choir Invite You

to join them for Palm Sunday worship on 29th March 2026 when they will be leading our worship. The first practice for this service will be on Thursday 5th March, 8pm-9pm



Churches Partnership (Wigan NW) Prayer Diary 2026

<p>4th January</p>	<p>At the start of the New Year pray for peace in the town, the country and the world.</p> 
<p>11th January</p>	<p>For all those involved in education, especially the schools with the Churches Partnership area.</p> 
<p>18th January</p>	<p>Today is the start of the week of prayer for Christian Unity.</p> 
<p>25th January</p>	<p>The minister, deacons, congregation and activities at Wigan Baptist Church.</p> 

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

Action for Fairer Tea – Brew it Fair

Do you enjoy a cuppa? How do you like it – with sugar? Strong? With milk?

Apart from water, tea is the world's most popular drink.

However, it is more than a drink, it's a daily ritual,

a comfort, enjoyed during a break or while catching up with loved ones. In Britain we drink over 100 million cups of tea every day!

However, behind every cuppa lies an untold story – the people who carefully

pick the tea leaves and carry up to 30 kilograms on their backs at a time. They face poverty, unsafe working conditions and

climate change, leaving them unable to plan for their future.

Fairtrade



[Do it Fair: Campaigning for Change in the Tea Industry](#) are asking the UK government to Brew it Fair. Act by signing their petition [Sign | Fairtrade](#)

[Foundation](#) and calling on the government to take stronger action in the tea industry. In addition why not purchase Fairtrade Tea?



Photo credit: © ChristianAid

Since 2017, nearly a million Rohingya refugees fleeing persecution in Myanmar have moved to Cox's Bazar, a coastal city in Bangladesh, creating the largest refugee camp in the world.

Facilitating water, sanitation, and hygiene services in the refugee camps is a core focus of *Commitment for Life's* humanitarian response partner. In Camp 15, the largest and most densely populated camp in Cox's Bazar, the organisation has installed a sewage treatment plant, repaired and installed latrines, wash cubicles and solar-run water points, and provided solid waste management, impacting the lives of nearly 71,360 people.

Being a hilly and densely populated area, Camp 15's demand for water is high. Through Christian Aid, *Commitment for Life* provides the means by which water can be supplied to around 9,500 people. Every day, around 12,000-14,000 litres of treated drinking water is supplied through the solar-run water system to residents.

To manage this water distribution, we follow a 'Community-based distribution approach' to create ownership among the refugees. In each sub-block, user committees are formed, comprising five members (all are women) to manage the water collection points. These committees manage the water distribution schedule, maintain the tap stands and spread awareness messages about waterborne diseases to the community. The success of the waste management plant serves as an example for other camps, demonstrating that sustainable waste management practices not only help to keep the environment clean but also provide economic opportunities for the local community.

Birthdays To Celebrate In January

Jenny Birchall
Malcolm Garforth-Fife
Fiona Grady
Tom Mangham
Janine Gay
Glenda Lowe
Andrew Gay



To those who celebrate their birthdays in January, we send our best wishes.

Flowers For January

(Arranger Sandra Garston)

- 4th Joan Ashcroft – birthday memories
- 11th Sybil and Lesley in memory of Bill
- 18th Bob and Sylvia Inglis in memory of Diane
- 25th Isabel Hitchen – anniversary flowers



WELCOME ALL TO WINTER WARMERS



Trinity United Reformed Church Milton
Grove, Wigan

Monday 12 noon to 2.30pm – Donations
Welcome

Homemade soup, sandwiches,



Registered Charity No.1050223

The 2025/26 Season

Students of ~ Junior RNCM



Listen to a number of talented students playing a variety of instruments and spot the musicians of the future!

Saturday 24th January 2026

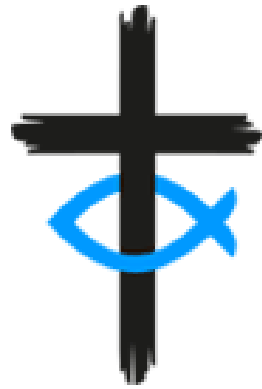
2:30 pm for 3 pm Start

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

**Cash or Card at the door or Tickets On-Line
Members £10 Guests £15 or scan the code below.**



Further details at : www.wiganmusic.org.uk



The
**United
Reformed
Church**