

**Trinity  
United Reformed Church  
Wigan**

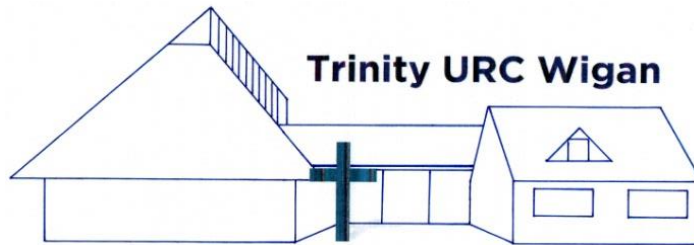
**[www.trinityurcwigan.org](http://www.trinityurcwigan.org)**



**February 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:lettings@trinityurcwigan.org)

## February Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but time seems to be hastening on at quite a pace! It doesn't seem two minutes since our Advent and Christmas services, the Induction of new Elders and now, at the end of this month, sees the start of Lent.

In the natural world, snowdrops have begun to raise their beautiful heads heralding spring and lighter and warmer days; a sign of hope as our landscape changes throughout the seasons. You can visit many places around our country where spectacular snowdrop walks are advertised, but do look closer to home in our Peace Garden.

The churches calendar continues from Christ's birth at Christmas and his presentation in the temple and by the end of this month He is beginning the Lenten journey to the cross. It is the time of Candlemas, another sign of hope of things to come; through the lectionary readings we follow the ministry of Christ. This truly is His hope for us in the future and, by following a practical, Christian way of life, making an impact on society, we glorify God.

As we move through this month, let us hope for the future – a new minister maybe; the Church family at Trinity continuing together to spread God's word.

To conclude, a verse from Romans Chapter 25 verse 13:

*'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'*

Every blessing,

Trish

## **Church Family News**

It is with sadness that we record the deaths of Rosalie Naylor and Gerald Fishburn.

Rosalie was married to David Naylor who was an active member of our church until his passing in 2020. We remember the family of David and Rosalie in our prayers.

Gerald Fishburn was an active member of church for many years, along with his late wife, Dorothy, however, in recent years Gerald had been unable to attend church. He passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> January and his funeral was at the end of January. We hold Gerald and Dorothy's family in our prayers.

Jenna and Al Moore would like to thank everyone for their love and best wishes on the birth of Henry. All the family would like to express their appreciation of the love, support and prayers whilst Henry was in Alder Hey. He is now recovering from his surgery and doing well. Please continue to hold him in your prayers as his recovery continues.

A message from Jenny Birchall.....

**To Trinity Church Family ~**

**Thank you very much for all your good wishes through texts, phone calls, cards and flowers, following my recent surgery. They are all very much appreciated. I am making steady progress and hope to be back with you at Church in the near future.**

**Jenny**

We pray for those we know who are ill, and those who are caring for loved ones.

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.

We were pleased to hear that Tom Mangham-Wood has passed his final anaesthetic exams and is now an FRCA (something to Google if you can't work it out)

## **Calendar of events for February**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Worship with Communion led by Rev Malcolm Garforth-Fife</b>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>Elders' Meeting</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by David Gent</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>10.45am.</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by Rev Geoff Felton, Synod Moderator</b>
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Worship led by Stephen Austin and the Elders</b>

## **Retiring Collection for February**

Our retiring collection for February will be for Young Lives versus Cancer

Here is an extract from their website.....

We know that the impact of cancer on young lives is more than medical. And that impact can be felt by the entire family. That's why we exist.

Young Lives vs Cancer is the only charity in the UK with specialist social workers who provide tailored support to children and young people with cancer, and their families.

We know everyone's different, so we work hard to provide support that's easy to access and meets individual needs, from helping families navigate the emotional and practical impact of cancer to removing barriers and solving problems that come with a diagnosis. We are there to prioritise wellbeing and take care of the non-medical.

And we stop at nothing to make sure the voices of children, young people and families are heard and their unique needs understood, so they can get the right care and support at the right time.

Some of the ways in which the charity supports affected families are:

- Access to specialist social workers
- Mental health support
- Financial support
- Accommodation service
- Bereavement support
- Campaigning for improved services and support

The retiring collection will be taken after the service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

## **Retiring Collections for December**

**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the retiring collections in December for the work of Shelter, an organisation that works with homeless people.**

**The December retiring collections raised £188.00**

## **Retiring Collection for January**

**Thanks to all who contributed to the retiring collection in January for the Commitment for Life Appeal in support of the work in Jamaica following the devastation caused by hurricane Melissa**

**The retiring collection raised £131.60**

## Regular Weekly Groups

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

## Sunday Worship Rota for February

Date	Lead Elder	Helper	Children's Corner
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Trish	Lesley	Glenda
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Chris	Trish	Gill
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Glenda	Katrina	Sue
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Lesley	Chris	Glenda

## Coffee Rota

1 <sup>st</sup> February	Marion Buckley	Nina
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Lesley Lowe	Joan Ashcroft
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Susan Winstanley	Denise Currie
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Lynn Heys	Gill Mangham

**Please arrange for a substitute if you are unavailable**

# **Précis of January Elders' Meeting**

- **Treasurer's position**

The treasurer's responsibilities are hopefully to be split between a number of people

- paying in at bank, recording breakdown of monies paid in
- arranging payments via bank transfer for pulpit supply
- arranging payment for purchases via bank transfer where possible
- issue of invoices and receipts to groups that hire the premises
- recording of all transactions, record keeping and reconciliation with bank balances
- compiling Gift Aid Tax refund claim

It was agreed that we should look to purchase a card reader that would allow people to make contactless donations to church and reduce the amount of cash that we handle.

- **Budget**

Financial outturn of the last financial year, 2025, is expected to be break even and reasonably close to 2025 budget.

Chris M has prepared a draft budget for 2026, which indicates a stable financial position, even when the cost of removal of the bees nest is included.

Bank balances are currently healthy.

- **Pulpit Supply**

Trish has arranged preachers for most of the services this year, the first vacant slot being April 12<sup>th</sup>

- **Church Magazine**

Discussion about who to ask to write the newsletters each month and what the retiring collections should be for the first quarter of the year.

- **Elders duties**

Discussion of allocation of duties

- **Vacancy**

No further news on the ministerial vacancy

- **Safeguarding**

**Dates to be arranged for DBS checks of WBC leaders**

- **Christmas Tree**

**Agreed that an artificial tree should be purchased as the real trees tend to droop and drop leaves, and are quite expensive. Fiona has offered to source a tree.**

- **Management Report**

- **Bee nest removal is progressing and hopefully the removal will take place in January/February**
- **All trees in the grounds have been surveyed and all recommended tree management work has been completed, following approval from Wigan Council**
- **New microphones are installed. One of the microphones is not working correctly and we are working to resolve this.**

## **Organ Music Played In January 2026**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 4 Jan  | Litanies (Alain)                        |
| 11 Jan | Finale from Sonata No.1 (Rheinberger)   |
| 18 Jan | Arrival of the Queen of Sheba (Handel)  |
| 25 Jan | Improvisation No.7 Op.150 (Saint-Saens) |


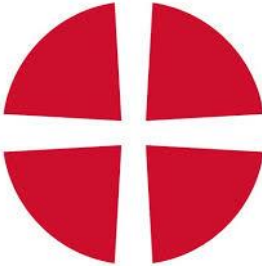


### **The Choir Invite You .....**

to join them for Palm Sunday worship on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 when they will be leading our worship.

The first practice for this service will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 8pm-9pm

# Churches Partnership (Wigan NW) Prayer Diary 2026

<p>1<sup>st</sup> February</p>	<p>All those in our town who are homeless or unemployed and for those that work with them, especially The Brick and the Salvation Army.</p> 
<p>8<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>The Parish Priests, congregations and activities at St. Mary's and St. John's Churches</p> 
<p>15<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>The Chaplains, doctors, nurses, and other staff working for Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust</p> 
<p>22<sup>nd</sup> February</p>	<p>Ministers, congregations and activities at Whitley Methodist Church</p> 

# Commitment for Life

Update  
Zimbabwe

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

## Shoemaking in Zimbabwe



| Feature Story - Shoemaking in Zimbabwe

### Together we walk: a fairer future starts with us

With support from Commitment for Life, Chipo received training in leatherwork. She also received training in leadership and business skills. This gave her renewed confidence as well as a diversified income.

Mornings are busy for Chipo. She helps her daughter, Perfect, get ready for school that is situated a few miles down a dusty road.

"When I made some sandals for my husband, school shoes for my daughter, and a handbag for my mother, I felt so happy," said Chipo. "I saw this goat and bought it with money from my leatherwork. I am happy that it is me who made the shoes which my daughter puts on."

Stories of changed lives are a blessing and why we choose to commit to justice.



#### Pray without ceasing...

'God of Light: send light; send love; send wisdom; send justice. May your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our one, true Light. Amen.'

## **Birthdays To Celebrate In February**

6<sup>th</sup> Hilary Chesney

Hannah Parker

7<sup>th</sup> Chris Garforth-Fife

14<sup>th</sup> David Clucas

15<sup>th</sup> Sarah Grady

Maisie Picton

22<sup>nd</sup> Polly Seddon

24<sup>th</sup> Martin Guenther

27<sup>th</sup> Lynne Austin



*To those who celebrate their birthdays in February, we send our best wishes.  
Congratulations to Martin Guenther on your special birthday!*

## **Flowers For February**

(Arranger Joan and Alyson Ashcroft)

1<sup>st</sup> Alyson Ashcroft in memory of her parents

8<sup>th</sup> Ken Alker in memory of his parents and  
Bessie Griffiths

15<sup>th</sup> Joyce Davies for Alex and Charlie

22<sup>nd</sup> Marjorie Sharp in memory of Alex



# WELCOME ALL TO WINTER WARMERS



Trinity United Reformed Church Milton  
Grove, Wigan

Monday 12 noon to 2.30pm – Donations  
Welcome

*Homemade soup, sandwiches,*

## **Cuppa & Chinwag**



**Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife will be entertaining those at Cuppa & Chinwag on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February as he sings 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.**





*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**