

**Trinity
United Reformed Church
Wigan**

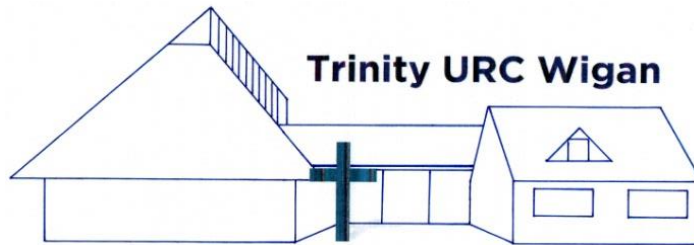
www.trinityurcwigan.org



March 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 Secretary

Minutes Mrs Lesley Lowe

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

Safeguarding Mrs Sue Ledwidge & Mrs Lesley Lowe

Lettings Email Contact lettings@trinityurcwigan.org

March Newsletter

Dear friends,

I am sure that quite a few of you will feel the same as I do about the arrival of spring, meteorologically starting on Sunday March 1st. It is the time when nature will wake up with longer days, blossoms opening up in all their glory and birds and other wonderful creatures bringing their offspring into the world.

There are a few notable dates in March, with Sunday 8th being International Women's Day. This year's campaign theme is 'Give to Gain,' concentrating on co-operation, guidance and practical support to speed up gender equality. The theme motivates giving time, money, resources and encouragement to numerous opportunities for women.

Also on Monday 15th March is Mother's Day, now a very long standing tradition. I would like to wish all the women from Trinity a lovely day.

The whole of March is of course in Lent, which began on Wednesday 18th February and will continue until Thursday 2nd April. The main thing I remember about Lent, from when I attended Primary School, is that we were all told that we needed to give something up. Most of us stuck to this like glue, probably because we knew that 'Miss' would check, even if only by asking us in front of the class. The United Reformed Church, I am glad to say, takes a more positive approach, with the 3Rs ~ Reflection, Repentance and Reconciliation, which frame the 40 day journey of spiritual rejuvenation, renewing our connection with God, mankind and creation, through prayer or relevant actions.

With every blessing to you all,

Jenny

From the Editor

A few weeks ago I was anticipating that the March edition of our church magazine might be light on content. Then, a number of folk, out of the blue, asked if they could offer an article or some photographs for inclusion, and March now feels like a bumper edition. I hope you enjoy reading the contributions, and thanks to all who have taken the time to prepare them.

I'm grateful to those who prepare the rotas for inclusion in the magazine – you know who you are!

With best wishes for March

Chris M

Church Family News

We remember those who are currently unwell, those who are caring for family members and 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.

Jessie Prestt sends her best wishes to her friends at Trinity. She receives the magazine each month and enjoys catching up with events at Trinity. She is very settled in Bramhall, close to her niece, Louise. Jessie continues to be active with the many social events on offer, including Sunday services in the care home arranged by a local church.

Calendar of events for March

Sunday 1st March	10.45am	Morning Worship and Communion with friends from Wigan Baptist Church, led by Chris Mangham
Tuesday 3rd March	7pm	Management Meeting
Wednesday 4th March	11am	Elders' Meeting
Saturday 7th March	3pm	Wigan Music Society Concert
Sunday 8th March	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Helen Bennett
Sunday 15th March	10.45am.	Morning Worship led by Elders and the Worship Group
Sunday 22nd March	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Stephen Mitchell, CYDO for Mersey Synod
Sunday 29th March	10.45am	Palm Sunday Service led by The Choir

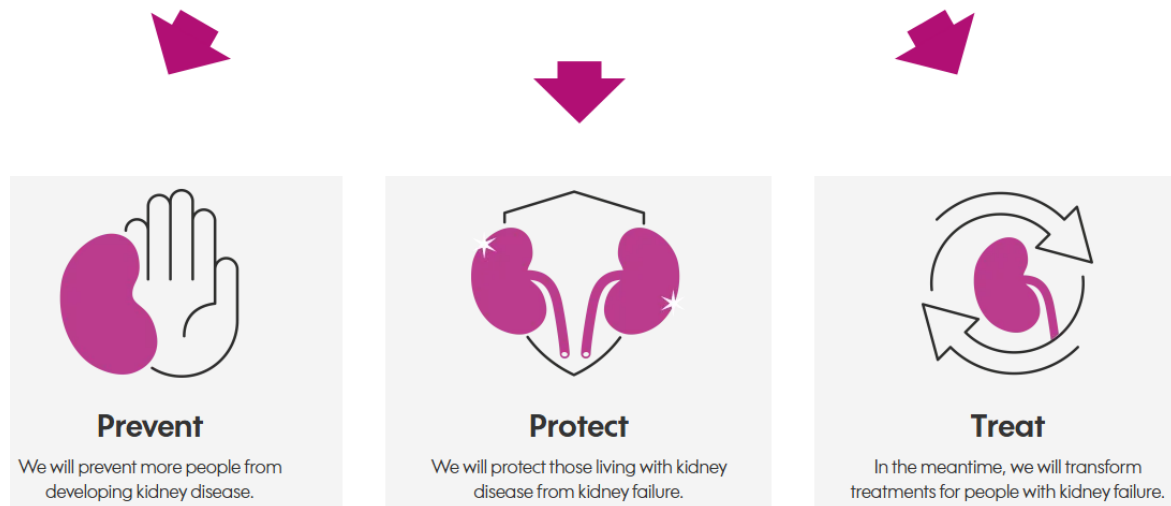
Retiring Collection

Our retiring collection for March will be for Kidney Research UK. The goals and actions of Kidney Research UK are shown on the diagrams below...

Our goals.

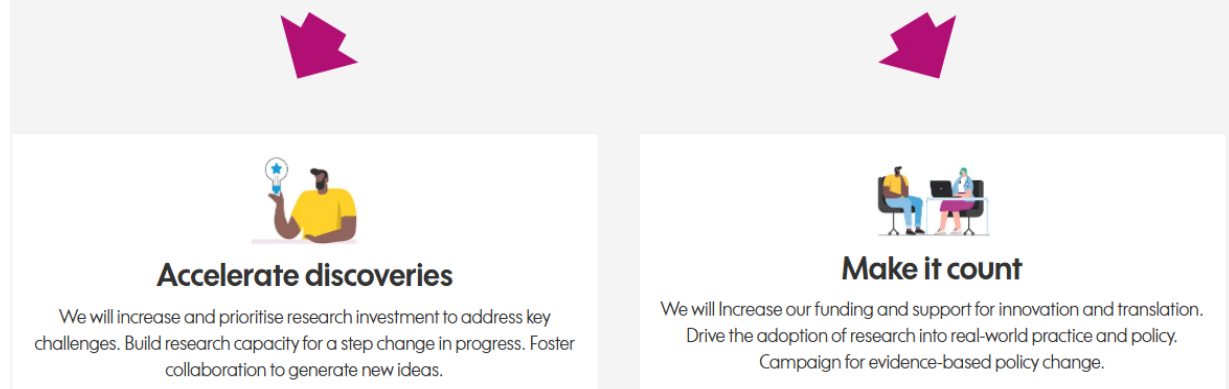
Our goals underpin everything we do and are the guiding principles behind our ambitions, our long-term plans and the work we deliver every day.

Our strategy sets out in detail how we will deliver them.



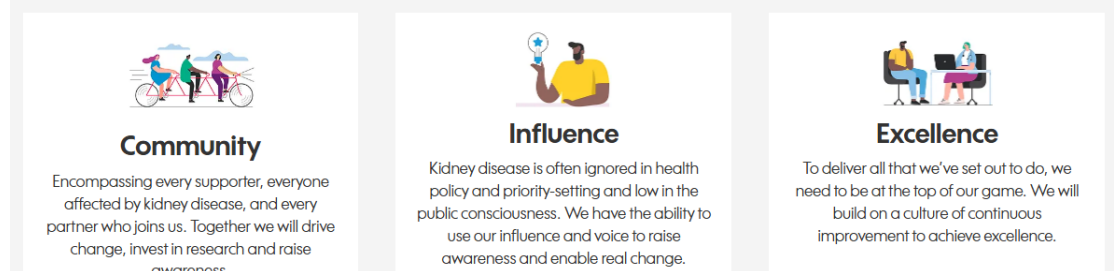
Our actions.

Our actions outline our plan over the short and medium term to reach our long-term goals.



Our enablers.

We will build on our strong foundations in each area to deliver our strategy and, in turn, achieve our goals.



The retiring collection will be taken after the service on 1st March.

Regular Weekly Groups

Monday	9.30am – 11.30am	Little Fishes Toddler Group <i>(In school term time)</i>
	7pm – 9pm	Churches Together Lent Study <i>(In Lent)</i>
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

Date	Lead Elder	Helper	Children's Corner
1 st March	Trish	Lesley	Sue
8 th March	Lesley	Katrina	Glenda
15 th March	Glenda	Tony	Sue
22 nd March	Lesley	Judith	Gill
29 th March	Chris	Bob	Sue

Coffee Rota

1 st March	Marion Buckley	Nina
8 th March	Lesley Lowe	Joan Ashcroft
15 th March	Susan Winstanley	Denise Currie
22 nd March	Lynn Heys	Gill Mangham
29 th March	Marion Buckley	Nina

Please arrange for a substitute if you are unavailable

Spring Clean

Little Fishes volunteers have been busy over the half term holiday giving the toys a thorough clean, a regular activity throughout the year.



Activity was briefly interrupted for a chocolate tasting session!



Thanks to all the Little Fishes volunteers for your dedication.

A Ministry of Flowers [a reflection by Lynn Heys]



Flowers adorn our communion table every Sunday and serve as a visual offering of thanksgiving to God; they symbolise joy and the beauty of God's creation.

I'm sure we have all been fortunate to receive flowers from church and they are always beautiful and a great reminder of the love that is shown every week here at Trinity.

Flowers, as well as herbs, trees and plants, are mentioned throughout the bible:

Olive tree & leaves	Genesis 8 v 11
Papyrus	Exodus 2 v 3
Hyssop	Exodus 12 v 22
Almond blossom	Exodus 25 v 33 & Numbers 17 v 8
Lily of the Valley & Rose	Song of Songs 2 v 1
Crocus	Isaiah 35 v 1-2
Myrrh	Matthew 2 v 11
Flowers of the fields	Mark 15 v 23 & John 19 v 39
Mustard	Matthew 6 v 28 & Luke 12 v 27
Mint, Dill and Cumin	Matthew 13 v 31
Palm branches	Matthew 23 v 23 & John 12 v 13 & Revelation 7 v 9

During the Sermon on the Mount Jesus draws on the imagery of flowers to teach about trusting in God's provision.

'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you – you of little faith?' Matthew 6 v 28-30

This teaching is also found in Luke 12 v 27-28.

The passage emphasises God's care for his creation, illustrating that just as He adorns the flowers with beauty, He also provides for the needs of his people.

In the Song of Songs, Solomon used plants to show that love is like a garden and is to be nurtured and treasured and enjoyed for its beauty.

The writings share that flowers are a gift of beauty, but they keep us attuned to their impermanence and that God's love is always around us.

Flowers are a symbol of love, affection and care; they are beautiful, meaningful and sentimental. However, we must appreciate that they only last for a limited period, but God's love is everlasting.

Nature has an incredible effect on mood and mental well-being, and the gifting of flowers is noted to improve emotional health. Flowers are a natural way to help manage day to day moods and increase and encourage positivity.

We are thankful for the communion table flowers displayed beautifully, and for their distribution and for all who carry out these tasks lovingly. Receiving flowers from church certainly lifts my mood and I feel loved and that I belong to this church and the wonderful people who always care.

God bless,
Lynn

Flowers For March

(Arranger Katrina Peet)

- 1st Lillian Pollard
- 8th Gill Barber
- 15th Katrina Peet – family flowers
- 22nd TBC
- 29th TBC



Winter Warmers Farewell

Monday 23rd February saw the last meeting of Winter Warmers, until next winter. The Monday lunchtime soup and sandwich session has been well attended since it started in November, and attendees have been generous in their financial donations, which has supported this ministry.

Malcolm and Katrina have fed us with wonderful soup and sandwiches, assisted by a number of extra helpers. It's not just a warm space, but a warm atmosphere of friendship and support.



Bees

On Tuesday 17th February Abstract Scaffolding (Blackrod) began to build the impressive scaffold structure to allow access to the bees nest in the north end of the roof structure. Three days later, the scaffold was ready for TLC Pest Control (Birmingham) to gain access, strip away the building structure and carefully remove our squatters.

TLC estimated that there were over 2 500 live bees in the nest; these were gently wrapped in blankets to keep them warm and will be given a new home in a hive far away.

The building structure was then sealed and reinstated. We have taken the opportunity to inspect the timber window frames and glazing at high level. The good news is that the frames are in very good condition. However the frames need painting and the glazing sealant needs replacing, a job for next year.

Thanks to Tony for his management of the whole bee removal project.



A view of the impressive scaffolding structure that was needed to access the bee hive.

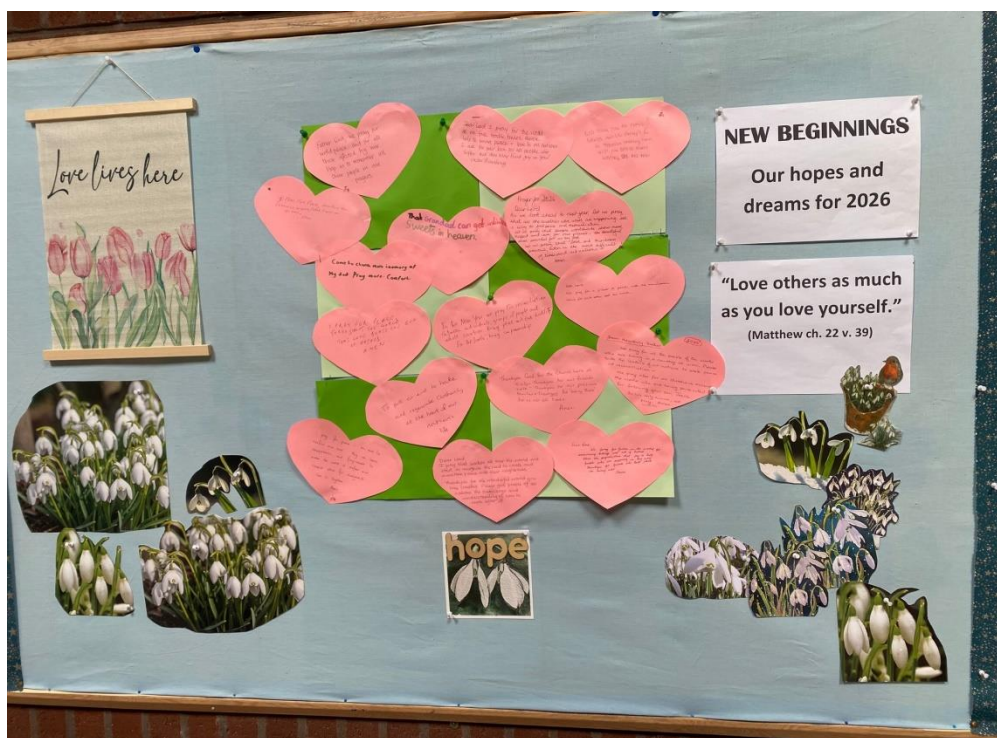
Christmas Hope and New Year Hopes

Thanks to Judith and the team that create new displays for our display boards. The Christmas display has been replaced with New Year 'hopes'. Why not take a moment to see some of the prayers of hope for 2026?

Christmas Display



New Beginnings Display



Organ Music Played In February 2026

1 February

Festive Scherzo

Malcolm Archer

8 February

Choir Nunc Dimittis

Thomas Weelkes

Organ Wedding March

Earnest Suttle

15 February

Organ Prelude in C Minor BWV546

J S Bach

22 February

Choir Hide not thou thy face

Richard Farrant

Organ Psalm Prelude Set 1, No.1

Herbert Howells

Psalm 34 v.6

*“The poor called and the Lord heard,
He saved them from their troubles”*







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 Together Prayer Diary, March

1 st March	<p>All asylum seekers, refugees and those who make the perilous journey to escape from tyranny.</p> 
8 th March	<p>The Vicar, congregation and activities at St Michael and All Angels Church</p> 
15 th March	<p>For all those working to help people overcome addiction with alcohol and gambling</p> 
22 nd March	<p>The Interim Moderator, Elders, congregation and activities at Trinity United Reformed Church</p> 
29 th March	<p>Those who work in government including the local Councillors, MPs and those who work in the Civil Service</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 March

Sam Maiden
Luke Chesney
Neil Chesney
Hannah McGailey
Lynn Heys
Jane Boast
Bob Inglis



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



Swinley and Whitley Churches Together

Lent Discussions 2026

When: Mondays in Lent 7 – 9pm

Where: Trinity URC, Milton Grove, WN1 2PG

Theme: **'ON PURPOSE'**

23rd February

Purpose in Everything

2nd March

Purpose in Work / Interests

9th March

Purpose in Family

16th March

Purpose in Friendship

23rd March

Purpose in Neighbourhoods

30th March

Purpose in Holy Week:

Agape Meal and meditation held at St. John's
Presbytery, access from the front door, on Powell
Street

You Are Most Welcome To Join Us for One or More Evenings



Registered Charity No. 1050223

The 2025/26 Season

Songs and Music for Voice, Viola and Piano

A selection of songs and music by various
composers including Brahms, Bridge and Gounod.



Imogen Garner - Mezzo Soprano, Ben
Holland - Viola and John Gough - Piano

Saturday 7th March 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

Wigan Bridge Club
at
Trinity United Reformed Church

Bridge for Beginners



Mondays at 7.00pm
starting on 30th March 2026 with
introduction and registration followed by
8 lessons each 2¾ hours. £65 for the course.
If you are interested then you can just turn up for the first
session, no booking required.

Learn to play this great game in a
relaxed and friendly atmosphere.
Keep your mind active, meet new friends
and keep warm!

All welcome

For more details www.bridgewebs/wigan

Email: wiganbridgeclub@gmail.com

Tutor: John Gooch 01257 266288

or

Secretary: Shaun Frayne 07763 809 257



The
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