

**Trinity
United Reformed Church
Wigan**

www.trinityurcwigan.org



April 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 Trish Reilly
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 Sue Ledwidge and Lesley Lowe

Lettings Email Contact lettings@trinityurcwigan.org

April Newsletter

In the last few months I've been made aware of Jan Liebermann, a new and remarkable talent in the organ world who despite being aged just 19 is attracting audiences worldwide with his extraordinary performances, including on Facebook and Instagram accounts. All the music is played from memory which takes hours of practice every day showing that even with innate capability the adage "10% inspiration 90% perspiration" is so true.

The concept of "God given Talent" has a long history particularly in the arts, but it set me thinking that everyone has a "God given Talent" in one way or another. It can be music performance, art, teaching, social care, creating great food, bringing up the next generation, provide critical leadership or applying science & engineering to the next breakthrough in human evolution or medicine.

If all of us have talents, then the real issue is how do we use those in the service of the world and, more specifically, in the service of God?

Robert Oppenheimer, a brilliant physicist and mathematician used his talent to build the world's first atomic bomb. While he was clear at the time why he was developing the weapon, he soon began self-doubt ("I am death") about how he used his remarkable talent to end the Second World War but at great personal and human cost.

As human beings we possess agency and how we use our God given Talents is ultimately a choice for us with all the frailties and failings of judgement that come with that.

Sometimes it isn't clear whether we've done the right thing or the wrong thing, but generally it has been our decision whether to do it or not.

If you are a world leader you have demonstrated some kind of talent that has got you into the position of power, but are they then using those talents for good, or bad or even evil?

Christianity has at its heart the concept of love and forgiveness for the mistakes we make or the misjudgements that all humans make, but as Christians, we can use our faith to make our decision making better and more thoughtful.

Christianity isn't a political party with a manifesto, but it is God's unconditional love that is open and welcoming to everyone even if it can be difficult to fulfil that principle sometimes.

The influence of Christians in guiding how human beings may make best the use of our talents is in a weak phase right now. It has been this way many times in the past (highly recommended is the display on the history of Christianity in Carlisle cathedral which illustrates this point very well).

This waning influence has coincided, coincidentally or not, with a period that is far from positive in many ways. Using our talents to serve Jesus and his purposes has become a minority participation - and is the world better for it?

But as we remember the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus in Holy Week and the Good News that represents, let's recognise and celebrate all of the talent at Trinity and what is done and achieved each week for the community in a packed programme of events and activities.

Using God given Talents for the *right* purpose is far from dead – and thanks to a 19-year-old German called Jan Liebermann for reminding me of that.

Martin

Church Family News

We were saddened to hear that Betty Kennerley passed away on 26th February. Her son, Michael, was by her side. On 20th March, a service of thanksgiving for Betty's life was held at Over United Reformed Church, Winsford where Philip and Betty worshipped after they had retired from paid ministry. We send our love and sympathy to Michael and Esther and the family and hold them in our prayers.

We keep in our prayers those who are currently in hospital and those undergoing tests and treatment.

We remember all 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.

Easter Blessings

The Elders send wishes for a Happy Easter all who have a connection to Trinity URC Wigan.

Christ is Risen.....

..... He is Risen Indeed.



Dedication of new Bible

A new smaller Bible has been purchased to be brought into Church at the beginning of Services. This is because sometimes the previous Bible became too heavy to carry.

The Bible was dedicated during Worship on Sunday February 15th by Rev. Geoff Felton, the Moderator for the Mersey Synod.



Calendar of events for April

Wednesday 1st April	7pm	Elders Meeting
Thursday 2nd April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Communion led by Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife
Sunday 5th April	10.45am	Easter Sunday Worship with Communion and a Baptism led by Rev. Malcolm Garforth-Fife
Sunday 12th April	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Stephen Austin and the Elders
Tuesday 14th April	7pm	Management Meeting
Sunday 19th April	10.45am.	Morning Worship led by Rev Bill Wright
Sunday 26th April	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Leo Roberts

Regular Weekly Groups

Monday	9.30am – 11.30am	Little Fishes Toddler Group <i>(In school term time)</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 for April

Date	Lead Elder	Helper	Children's Corner
5 th April	Glenda	Lesley	Gill & Glenda
12 th April	Chris	Katrina	Sue
19 th April	Trish	Tony	Gill
26 th April	Lesley	Bob	Sue

Coffee Rota

5 th April	Lesley Lowe	Joan Ashcroft
12 th April	Susan Winstanley	Denise Currie
19 th April	Lynn Heys	Gill Mangham
26 th April	Marion Buckley	Nina

Little Fishes Rota

6 th April	No Little Fishes – Easter Break
13 th April	Katrina, Angela, Jen, Paul, Gill
20 th April	Jen, Judith, Glenda, Anne
27 th April	Jen, Angela, Christine, Lynn

Please arrange for a substitute if you are unavailable

Retiring Collection

Our retiring collection for April will be for Prostate Cancer UK.

The retiring collection will be taken after the service on Easter Sunday.

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

Three Churches in Bath [from the travel journal of Angela Ashcroft]

Like many of you when on a break, we visit local churches and cathedrals. I like to get a sense of the people who worship there through church notices, parish magazines and messages. My husband likes to understand the music tradition by exploring the organ, hymn boards and hymn books.

We had a day trip to Bath at the beginning of December. From the train station we headed straight for Bath Abbey (Church of St Peter and St Paul). Built in a light coloured stone with magnificent windows and carvings; it cost £8 each to look around. There are a number of altars and seating areas for quiet reflection as well as a great deal of historical interest. The basement museum presents a potted history with some very moving interactive exhibits especially around interpretation of the Bible. As we were leaving the 'Shoppers carol service' began – 3 services on weekend days in December, doors open to warmly welcome those visiting the Christmas markets.

We wandered over to the Roman Baths, a magnificent monument to Roman life preserved in amazing detail. You can sit on the steps at the side of the main bath and watch the steam rise from the geothermally warmed water, or take a sip of the metallic sulphur tasting water from a fountain. We preferred the mulled wine on offer whilst perusing the many rooms and after two hours took ourselves off to explore the Bath streets. Guides stood in the middle of the pedestrian area holding signs high 'Keep Right' in an attempt to direct the vast crowds. The volume of people led us to M and S for a coffee, still busy but more orderly.

Amongst the shops we came across the Church of England 'St Michael's Without' Church. The without meaning that the site was originally outside the Bath walls, only some of which remain. The church has ornate architecture inside, opens 7 days a week with a café and counselling and addiction services for those who need it, as well as holding weekly services. We found it to be a friendly place, bustling with volunteers, tourists and parishioners with a good deal of Christian literature on offer.

As we headed back at the train station we passed St Peter's Place. The decommissioned church of St Peter's is now a set of well-appointed private flats with a gated courtyard.

We had a great day but were very glad to get back to the quiet of Lower Peover.

Where have you visited ?

Angela

Closeknit Blankets [an update from Judith Watson]

Closeknit group has produced many knitted items for a variety of charities over the years we have been meeting. We have knitted dozens of blankets for the RAEI and the photo shows our link person receiving the latest batch.



Judith Seddon is the Bereavement Liaison Specialist Nurse at the RAEI. We meet in the peace garden for the handover of the blankets.

Thanks to Closeknit members for their hours of blanket making. I know Judith is extremely grateful for your many contributions over the years. We are truly a Closeknit group of people.

Organ Music Played In March 2026



1 March

Postlude in G Minor, Set 1, No.2. Op.102

C V Stanford

8 March

Fantasy in E Major

Harold Darke

15 March

Psalm Prelude, Set 2, No.2

Herbert Howells

Psalm 139, v11 "the darkness is no darkness with you, and the night is as clear as they day"

29 March (Palm Sunday)

Choir

Victimae Paschali

As Jesus went to Calvary

Psalm 130

Crossing the Bar

Ave Verum

O God your loving care for us

Arr. Andrew Reid

Desmond Ratcliffe

Walford Davies

Rani Arbo

Mozart

Plainsong





Organ

Fugue in G Minor BWV542 "The Great"

J S Bach

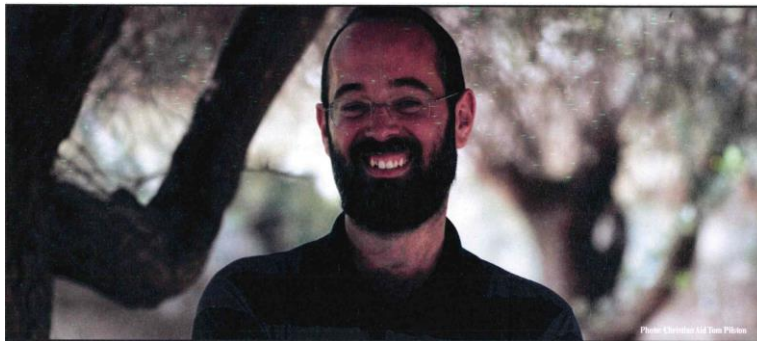


Churches Together Prayer Diary, April

<p>5th April</p>	<p>Those volunteers who listen to individuals who have problems or seek advice including Child Line, the Samaritans, Victim Support, Citizens Advice and Age UK.</p> 
<p>12th April</p>	<p>The Vicar, congregation and activities at St Andrews Church</p> 
<p>19th April</p>	<p>The members of the local Fire Brigade and ambulance crews who risk their lives to save others.</p> 
<p>26th April</p>	<p>The officers, soldiers and activities at the Salvation Army Citadel</p> 

MOVING STORIES

WORLD JUSTICE
PROGRAMME UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH



Feature Story - Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory


Commitment for Life believes that all people are created in the image of a loving, generous God. Each person is fully entitled to freedom, dignity, safety, and equity. We emphatically believe that every Israeli and Palestinian has a right to these things. Their rights are shared and indivisible.

Christian Aid reports that Tzvika Besor (pic.) is a Jewish Israeli living in Tel Aviv. He lives a good life and wants this for all.

'I've never ignored the occupation,' he explains, 'ever since I was 11. But what's different now is I can do something to change it.'

Tzvika is a human rights campaigner for our partner ACRI (Association of Civil Rights in Israel). He helped spearhead a mass campaign to connect A-Twaneh village to a good water supply.

We are grateful to you for your support for heroes like Tzvika.



He is risen indeed!

'God of Easter: Jesus is risen from the dead; Hallelujah! Send love; send wisdom; send courage. May your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our one, true Life. Amen.'

We want to share the excellent news that the United Reformed Church has collected over £30,000 to assist Christian Aid's partner CRAF to clean up after Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing total.

Birthdays To Celebrate In April

Tony Currie
Sybil Callister
Sarah Mangham
Stuart Priestley
Jessie Prestt
Trish Reilly
Marjorie Sharp
Alison Mather
Eveline Ann Robinson
Stephen Austin



We send our best wishes to those who celebrate their birthdays in April.

Flowers For April

(Arranger Glenda Lowe)

- 5th Quynh Dieu Nguyen, in memory of her father
- 12th Glenda Lowe – family flowers
- 19th TBC
- 26th The Barber family, in memory of Malcolm



The 2025/26 Season

**Sarah Waycott - Flute
and Olivia Dance - Piano**



A selection of music exploring a French - American connection and the cross-over of cultures and styles that resulted in the 'American Sound' But is it all rooted in the streets and salons of Paris?

Saturday 25th April 2026

7:00 pm for 7:30 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

**Two masterpieces.
One extraordinary night of choral music.**

**HAYDN
THERESIENMESSE
BRITTEN
REJOICE IN THE LAMB**

Musical Director: John Powell

Accompanist: Carol Kwater

Clara Phelps, Soprano

Nia Edwards, Alto

Louis de Satgé, Tenor

Sam Gilliatt, Baritone

Saturday 18 April 2026 7:30pm

St Michael's, Duke St, Wigan, WN1 2BJ

All tickets £15 payable on the door or
online at www.wiganchoral.co.uk



**Wigan
Choral
Society**

Find us on Facebook

Registered Charity No: 1155474



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
**United
Reformed
Church**