

Trinity United Reformed Church Wigan

www.trinityurcwigan.org



September 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

Trish Reilly Email: secretary@trinityurcwigan.org

Safeguarding Sue Ledwidge

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

Lettings Contact lettings@trinityurcwigan.org
Please note that there is very limited availability for lettings at the moment

Magazine Submissions magazine@trinityurcwigan.org

September Newsletter

Harvest – A Season of Thankfulness

As the nights draw in and the temperatures begin to fluctuate I am starting to think about the season of Harvest.

As the days grow shorter and the colours of autumn begin to appear, Harvest gives us a wonderful opportunity to pause and give thanks to God for the abundance of his creation.

Harvest is more than a celebration of the food that reaches our tables. It reminds us that everything we have is ultimately a gift from God. From the rain that waters the earth and the sunshine that helps crops to grow, to the hands of farmers, growers, shop workers and all those who help provide our food, there are countless reasons to say, **"Thank you, Lord."**

The Bible reminds us that creation belongs to God. In Psalm 24 we read, *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."* Harvest therefore invites us not only to be thankful, but also to consider how we care for the world that God has entrusted to us.

It also reminds us of our responsibility towards our neighbours. We know that, even in a country where food is plentiful, many people struggle to afford the essentials. Our Harvest gifts to the local food bank or other community organisations can make a real difference to people who are facing difficult times.

This is an important part of our Christian calling. Jesus continually showed compassion towards those who were hungry, vulnerable or in need. Our thanksgiving should therefore lead to generosity. We receive God's gifts with gratitude and share them with others in love.

Harvest also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the wider world. The United Reformed Church's 2026 Harvest resources, *"Wise Words,"* encourage churches to connect worship with justice, creation and our responsibility towards others.

So, as we celebrate Harvest this year, let us remember three simple things: **give thanks, share generously and care faithfully.**

May we be grateful for God's provision, mindful of those who have less than we do, and committed to caring for God's beautiful creation.

May our Harvest celebrations be filled with joy, fellowship and thanksgiving, and may the spirit of Harvest continue throughout the year—not simply in what we bring to church, but in how we live, give and care for one another.

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." —
Psalm 107:1**

Happy Harvest!

Malcolm

Church Family News

We remember in our prayers those who are currently in hospital, those who are unwell and those caring for family members.

We particularly remember Anne, Isabel, Lesley and Marion.

We pray also those who are not able to join us for Sunday worship, but who remain part of our fellowship.

If anyone would like to celebrate communion at home, please let one of the elders know.

Thank You's

From Lesley

Thank you for all the messages, phone calls, emails, cards and flowers that I have received they have all been greatly appreciated at this difficult time. I am hoping to be able to join the church family at some point in the near future whilst Graham is in St George's Nursing home for respite care.

Lesley

From Anne

I don't know where to begin to express my gratitude to you all at Trinity for your cards, messages and mostly your prayers during Terry's many years of illness.

He died peacefully, free from pain or distress at home (as was his wish). Secondly, I thank you all for your kindness during my recent stay in hospital.

Sincerely,
Anne Fitzhenry

From Chris

Thank you for the flowers, cards, prayers and good wishes during my recent stay in hospital. I hope it's not too long before I can be fully back in circulation. I'm just following doctor's orders at the moment.

Chris

From the Magazine Editor

Thanks to everyone who has provided rotas, information and lists for inclusion in the magazine.

A special thank you to Judith for the article on Junior Players' last production, reproduced with appropriate permissions.

I now have a dedicated email address, **magazine@trinityurcwigan.org** to which items for inclusion can be sent.

Chris M

Calendar of events for September

Wednesday 2nd September	7pm	Elders Meeting
Sunday 6th September	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Trish Reilly
Sunday 13th September	10.45am	Morning Worship with Communion and Harvest Celebration led by Rev Malcolm Fife
Sunday 20th September	10.45am.	Morning Worship led by Elders and Worship Group
Saturday 26th September	10am to 12pm	Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Care
Saturday 26th September	5pm start	Wigan Music Society Concert Piano Recital by Nicholas Rimmer
Sunday 27th September	10.45am	Morning Worship led by Jen Birchall and Worship Group

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 September

Date	Lead Elder	Helper	Children's Corner
6 th September	Jen	Lynn	Glenda
13 th September	Glenda	Katrina	Sue
20 th September	Judith	Bob	Gill
27 th September	Trish	Tony	Glenda

Coffee Rota for September

6 th September	Lynn	Gill
13 th September	Marion	Nina
20 th September	Joan	Lynn
27 th September	Susan	Denise

Little Fishes Rota

7 th September	Katrina, Jen, Angela, Glenda, Anne
14 th September	Katrina, Jen, Angela, Lynn, Paul
21 st September	Katrina, Jen, Angela, Judith, Gill
28 th September	Katrina, Jen, Angela, Lynn

Please arrange for a substitute if you are unavailable

Management News

We have recently received the Buildings Inspection Report for the church, carried out by a building surveyor working for Synod. These inspections happen about every 7 years. Management Committee are studying the findings and recommendations and will report to the elders and church meeting in due course.

Over the summer we have had the external doors and window frames painted and fitted an alarm to the fire exit near the blue room, to give an audible alert if the door is left open. We are hoping to improve the 'patio' area at the rear of church and to install a ramp from the fire exit in place of the current step.

Work that we plan to undertake next spring includes the painting of window frames on the high level glazing and resealing of the glass against the frames; this will require either scaffolding or a 'cherry picker'.

I have been looking at ways in which we might reduce our carbon footprint as a church. The most significant contributor to our carbon footprint is the amount of gas we consume in a year, and perhaps we should investigate the possibility of moving to alternative forms of heating.

With our lets, Babyballet will no longer be meeting on a Saturday morning; we will be sad to see them go. Mar El Thoma church is hoping to meet at Trinity on the 4th Saturday of each month, 4pm to 7pm, starting in November. Wigan Bridge Club, because of increased numbers, will now use the rear of church on both Monday and Tuesday evenings; Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening will continue in the blue room.

Later in the magazine I have included a sheet showing the times of groups and activities in our buildings.

Our finances are currently healthy, with income and expenditure in line with budget.

Chris M

Commitment For Life



Commitment for Life is a URC initiative, started in 1992, to support Christian Aid and Global Justice Now. URC churches are encouraged to consider a lifelong commitment to supporting the work of these Christian charities.

Christian Aid marked its 80th anniversary with a national service of thanksgiving on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Westminster Abbey in London. The service celebrated eight decades of global humanitarian work rooted in British and Irish church partnerships that began in 1945.

Prayers written for Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary Service

We give thanks for the staff and volunteers of Christian Aid who, for the past eighty years, have given of themselves in the support of the most vulnerable across the world. We pray for those who continue to work to bring dignity and hope where there is inequality and despair, that they might know the strength and power of the Holy Spirit.

We give thanks to God the gift of his creation, and all that gives us hope and sustains us in our work. We pray for all supporters of Christian Aid and for our partner organisations, that those who work in the midst of danger and difficulty might be upheld by the love of Christ.

Let us pray for all those who are wounded by conflict, injustice and poverty; for all who are at risk or in distress this day and who are unable to live full and flourishing lives. We pray for that day when peace will reign over the earth, and all people will be known, loved, and valued as God's children.

God of justice and mercy,

We cry out for a world where all are treated as equals,

Where no one is oppressed, and dignity belongs to all people. Break the chains of injustice.

Lift up the weak and humble the powerful.

Make love our foundation.

Let peace and justice flow like a river that never runs dry.

Amen

Written by Peter Nasir, Christian Aid Partner

General Secretary, East Jerusalem YMCA

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

A report from Judith Watson



This production was dedicated to Michael Austin.

Trinity Players began in 2001 from which date came 'mini pantomimes'. These grew into full blown pantos and later days produced musicals – Oliver and Joseph.

The group returned to pantomime productions in 2016 and 2020. From the Trinity Players emerged the junior group- a number of enthusiastic youngsters with great talent.

No production is possible without a huge team effort and hours of commitment to rehearsals. In addition to the actual players and directors, there's stage management, costume, sound and lighting, props, ticket sales, prompt, refreshments, and the list goes on.

It's thanks to Sarah Hulme that Trinity Junior Players is thriving. Their latest production performed on 19th and 20th of June 2026 was 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. This is a fantasy and the best known of the ever-popular Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis.

Trinity Junior players did great justice to this magical story loved by so many. It was a truly visual treat. The stage settings and costume design were so carefully adapted to the script which all the actors delivered so ably. The costumes were understated but so effective in representing both the World War 2 setting and the talking animals in the Narnia woodland.



The whole production reflected such creative effort by everyone involved. The youngsters on stage captured the characters so well. The clever staging and well-cast young people resulted in a thoroughly authentic and sensitive production.

World War 2 songs were used to effect and appropriate music enhanced the dramatic flag waving ending. The audience was drawn in and imagination stimulated by the attention to detail.



The production and the Junior Players team deserved larger audiences. So many children would have loved it, even though Lauren Voyce's son was reduced to tears at the death of Aslan!

If you attended the show, you experienced its success. If you didn't, you missed a treat. Congratulations to EVERYONE involved. (You beat the bees in the end!) The reward was the obvious pleasure and pride the Trinity Junior Players displayed in their various roles.

Thank you, Sarah and your team. Well done and thank you everybody!

Judith

Retiring Collection for September

Our retiring collection for September will be for DEC Venezuela Appeal. This will be taken after the service on September 6th.



Key facts



6,300 PEOPLE

killed in the earthquake with many others still missing



680,000 CHILDREN

in need of humanitarian assistance according to UN estimates

More than 6,000 people died and 18,000 people were left homeless following twin earthquakes, which struck within seconds of each other on 24 June 2026 in Venezuela.

A magnitude 7.2 shock was followed 39 seconds later by a magnitude 7.5 shock.

In the state of La Guaria, 80% of buildings were destroyed.

The capital city, Caracas, was particularly badly affected.

Organ Music Played In July and August 2026

5 July

Toccata from Plymouth Suite Whitlock

12 July

Prelude Fugue and Chaconne BuxWV137

19 July

Prelude & Fugue in G Major BWV541

26 July

Prelude in E Flat BWV552 J S Bach

2 August

Choral and Minuet from Suite Gothique Boellmann

9 August

Pomp and Circumstance No.4 Elgar

16 August

Prelude and Fugue in C BWV545 J S Bach

23 August

Rhapsody No.3 in C# Minor Howells



Churches Together Prayer Diary, September

6 th September	Young people in education and those who work in schools and colleges, returning after the summer break 
13 th September	For all those who work in the Fire and Rescue Service 
20 th September	For students, their families and university staff at the start of the new academic year 
27 th September	For the staff of Macmillan Cancer Support and the many volunteers and fundraisers that work with them. 

Birthdays To Celebrate In September

Ann Pickering

Graham Chesney

Paul Maiden

David Grady

Isabel Hitchen

Lesley Lowe

Elizabeth Smyth



To those who celebrate their birthdays during September, we send our best wishes.

Flowers For September

(Arranger Sandra Garston)

6th For all friends of Trinity

13th Isabel Hitchen in memory of Gwladys Richardson

20th Trish, Jen and Ros in memory of Mrs Margaret Walters

27th Bob and Sylvia Inglis





MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 26th September 10am to 12pm

Trinity United Reformed Church
Milton Grove, Wigan WN1 2PG
(nr. Wigan Hospital)

CAKE, COFFEE, TEA, RAFFLE, QUIZ AND
GOOD COMPANY. EVERYONE WELCOME!

Cuppa & Chinwag



Rev. Malcolm Fife will be entertaining those at Cuppa & Chinwag on Tuesday 22nd September as he sings a variety of folk 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**