



HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH



DECEMBER 2023

**A Bible in their hands
A Saviour in their hearts
A Purpose in their lives**

www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

Letter to Parishioners

Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7



Dear Friends,
it is that time of year again. No doubt you have seen your first Christmas tree in someone's house and the shops have been selling Christmas goodies since mid-October. It seems the commercialisation of Christmas begins earlier every year.

At this time of year we begin to get that cosy feeling as we begin to think about the familiar scenes of the Nativity. Much of what passes for the Christmas story has more to do with Charles Dickens and Victoriana than the story in the gospels. It is possible to go through the season of Advent and Christmas without any serious engagement with the true purposes of God in sending Christ Jesus to be born of Mary in Bethlehem.

Isaiah tells us, in the above verses, that when we look at the baby lying in the manger we are looking at the One who is the Servant of God. This Servant, Jesus Christ, had a mission. Mary and Joseph had only an inkling about all He would accomplish and yet hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God had announced that He would fulfil God's plan for the redemption of man.

Christ had come to open the eyes of the blind, spiritually blind, not just the physically blind. The healing of those with physical blindness was to point to the blindness within all men born in sin and their need for their eyes to be opened to the saving grace of God in Christ.

Isaiah tells us this Servant would set the prisoner free and release the captive. I think it is fair to say at some point we all feel captive, imprisoned, by sin and guilt. No doubt, like the rest of mankind, we have tried all sorts of solutions to be free of sin and guilt and we have found,

like them, none of it works. Why? Because we cannot wash away our sins nor cleanse a guilty conscience.

However, the good news of Christmas is that One has come who paid the penalty for our sin and cleanses us from all guilt and from all unrighteousness.

The story of Christmas is not about what we must do but about what God has done for us in His only begotten Son. Jesus left all the glory and majesty of heaven and came down to this sinful and sin filled world to save us from our sins. He humbled himself and became man, born of the Virgin Mary, born in a stable in Bethlehem to one day go to Calvary and die in our stead.

The One who has done this is the One whom we gaze upon in the familiar Nativity stories and scenes. As you consider the familiar may your blind eyes be opened to the wonder of God's grace in the babe born in Bethlehem. May it move you afresh this Christmas to praise and worship, to grateful thanks and humble acceptance of the forgiveness of your sins and the cleansing of your guilt.

May God richly bless you this Christmas

God bless
Rev Dr Alan McCann

Young At Heart



Our Christmas lunch will be on Monday 4th December. We will be starting at the slightly later time of 11.45. Christmas jumpers and hats at the ready ladies!! We would like to wish all of our members and their families every blessing for Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024.

God Bless
Yvonne and her team

Alan's Bible Study & Prayer Time



Bible Study continues on Wednesday at 1.00pm. We will continue our study in the Psalms.

Please note the following day and times for prayer times and bible study:

Wednesday's

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1.00pm-2.00pm | - Lunch time Bible Study in the Bennett Room |
| 7.30pm-8.00pm | - Prayer Time - Kerr Room |
| 8.00pm-9.00pm | - Bible Study |

Everyone will be very welcome.

God bless
Rev Dr Alan McCann

LIGHT (Sunday School)



Hi, folks,
Rehearsals for our Christmas presentation have already begun during church service on the following dates:-

Sunday 19th November

Sunday 26th November(after BB/GB Enrolment)

Further dates are:

Sunday 3rd December

Sunday 10th December

Christmas Presentation Sunday 17th December.

If you would like, your child to be included, please ensure that they can attend church on these further dates.

Many thanks

Christine (Chrissi) McDermott & the Team

Select Vestry

If anyone wants an item raised at the Select Vestry please contact:

Marjory Edgar: secretary@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

Drew Buchanan: treasurer@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

or any member of SV. This includes booking the church hall for any events.

Marjory Edgar

Hon Secretary

Trinity Tots - Toddlers Group

Thursday mornings, 10.00am - 11.30am
for play, chat, snacks, singing and lots of fun.



So looking forward to the next few weeks preparing for Christmas. We will have our Christmas party on Thursday 14th December and then have a break until the new year. We may have some Christmas characters joining us for the fun and games. We wish all of our babies, toddlers and their families a very happy Christmas and every blessing for the new year. God bless from the toddlers team.

God Bless
Trinity Tots Team

C.M.S Ireland Used Postage Stamps

Christmas Stamp Appeal – CMS Wants Your Stamps!



Before you throw out the envelopes from your Christmas post this year, help fill our box with your used and unwanted stamps. CMS Ireland can raise extra funds by selling your stamps – UK, Foreign or even unwanted stamp collections are all accepted. Just trim or carefully tear round the stamps to leave a bit of a margin and pop them in the box – it's simple!

Many thanks,
Yvonne Best

Fellowship Café at Holy Trinity



Every Thursday
10.30am – 12.30pm

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual fund-raising project. The money raised will be passed to the **Surgical Elective Unit** at Antrim Area Hospital in recognition of the recent care and treatment given to a member of our team. The final total will be announced in church in early December. At the time of writing this article, we have been encouraged and blessed by the generosity of our café visitors and members of the congregation.

We will be closed on December 28th to give our hard-working team a short break over Christmastime but, don't worry, we'll re-open on Thursday January 4th.

If you are free any Thursday morning please call in for a cuppa and a chat.

As the end of another year approaches, we have been truly blessed during 2023. We can look back on many joyful moments and can say from deep in our hearts

“God is good † all the time”

You can keep up to date by following us on facebook at:
“Holy Trinity Fellowship Café”

Yours in Christ's service,
Maurice Langley
God is good † all the time

Prayer Team

Alison Allen, Joan Harvey & Libby Todd



Two members of the Prayer Team will be meeting in the Prayer Room on Sundays after the service to lift your prayer slips. Two members will also be available at the front of the church to pray with you at this time each week. We will rotate in these roles so you will see different faces from week to week. Please do ask if you would prefer prayer in the privacy of the prayer room. The slips will continue to be lifted weekly and on 4 occasions as previously (usually over 4 weeks but may be over a longer period). Therefore, please do continue to make use of our prayer request box situated in the front hall of the church. As always, be assured that information on the slips remains confidential. We would encourage you to complete a prayer slip after you have attended for prayer so that we can continue to pray for your situation when we meet together.

If you would be interested in being part of the prayer team we ask that you consider this and know that we would dearly love to have your support. Please do approach one of us.

On behalf of the prayer team

Carrickfergus Food Bank (JVC Church)

We are asked to consider donating items suitable for Christmas now. These may include tinned ham, fruit, biscuits, chocolate, small selection packs, Christmas puddings, Shloer and diluting juice.

Please place into the 2 red bins in the entrance hall. The food is delivered monthly.

Thank you for the continued support which is very much appreciated.

Crosslinks



Any scrap metal such as ; kitchen utensils, car parts, unwanted trampolines, garden gates, tools of any kind, central heating boilers, etc, etc, collected and redeemed for cash, proceeds to Crosslinks Missionary Society.

Contact : Lynn Rodgers, 07970974604.

Storehouse



Storehouse continue to help those in need within our community. Please contact me if you have items of unwanted furniture and I will gladly arrange a collection.

Thank you for your support.

Donna Harrison

Tea & Coffee Rota

Team	Team Members			
1	Ann Calvert	Tracey Bowden	Joanne Hunter	
2	Arlene Macartney	Hannah Hulme	Marilyn Hulme	
3	Lorraine Hagan	John Doherty	Gail Doherty	
4	Yvonne Best	Jennifer Hamilton	Gwen Wilson	Jean Jamison
5	Wenda Gray	Sue Majury	Eva Dunn	
6	Kel McDermott	Drew Buchanan	Karen Buchanan	
7	Lorraine Ross	Maureen Lunn	Adrienne Tasker	

Team	Dates	
1	26 th Nov	14 th Jan
2	3 rd Dec	21 st Jan
3	10 th Dec	28 th Jan
4	17 th Dec	4 th Feb
5	24 th Dec	11 th Feb
6	31 st Dec	18 th Feb
7	7 th Jan 24	25 th Feb

Karen Buchanan

Carrickfergus Baby Bank

We thank you for the support and ask for donations of nappies, new baby grows, wipes, lotions, baby bath shampoo etc. Please place the items into the bin provided. The contents are delivered each month.

Welcome Team Rota

Teams	Dates	
Drew Buchanan Karen Buchanan		18 th Feb
Jack Blair Hazel Blair		25 th Feb
Liz Adair Janis Gibson	26 th Nov	3 rd Mar
Maureen Lunn Adrienne Tasker	3 rd Dec	10 th Mar
Eva Dunn Eleanor Steele	10 th Dec	17 th Mar
Sharon McNeill Alison Moffett	17 th Dec	24 th Mar
Helen McQuitty Libby Todd	24 th Dec	31 st Mar
Arlene Macartney Wenda Gray	31 st Dec	7 th Apr
Ann Calvert Lorraine Hagan	7 th Jan 24	14 th Apr
Joanne Hunter Laura Kerr	14 th Jan	21 st Apr
Yvonne Best Jennifer Hamilton Gwen Wilson	21 st Jan	28 th Apr
Kel McDermott Maurice Langley	28 th Jan	5 th May
Donna Harrison Sue Majury	4 th Feb	12 th May
Elaine Wright Joan Cummings	11 th Feb	19 th May

Karen Buchanan

Holy Trinity Chair Rota

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
Kel McDermott	Dougie Hempton	Graeme Hunter	David Sprott	John Fittis
Colin McIlwaine	Simon McDonald	Jim McNerlan	Charlie Killow	Daniel Lafferty
Garry Richmond		Bert Macartney	Richard Hambleson	
Peter Moffett		Maurice Langley		

Team	Dates			
1	3 rd Dec	7 th Jan 24	4 th Feb	3 rd Mar
2	10 th Dec	14 th Jan	11 th Feb	10 th Mar
3	17 th Dec	21 st Jan	18 th Feb	17 th Mar
4	24 th Dec	28 th Jan	25 th Feb	24 th Mar
5	31 st Dec			31 st Mar



Please note: Some teams need additional help. If you think you can help, please contact Simon.

Please take note of church announcements regarding organisations using the church and possible need to put out and put away chairs each week. If possible, please liaise with the others in your group.

Thank you
Simon McDonald

Creche Rota –December 2023



3 RD December	Laura Kerr	Maureen Lunn
10 th December	Anne Langley	Helen Fittis
17 th December	Amy Moffett	Gemma Fittis
24 th December	NO CRECHE FAMILY SERVICE	
31 ST December	Lorraine Ross	Carolynne Lafferty

Many thanks,
Laura Kerr

Uplift



Thank you for supporting the local arts.
The Uplift Team

East Antrim Battalion Heritage Society

The BB Museum will be open at 31a High Street Carrickfergus until December and further opening times can be found on the website www.bbeab.org but generally Tuesday – Saturday, 10am -12 noon and 2pm - 4pm.

Everyone welcome.

A green poster with a scalloped top edge decorated with a string of yellow stars and red and blue Christmas lights. The text is in various fonts and colors (white, orange, and green).

Sing-a-long with Third Carrickfergus Band

*It's Beginning to
Sound A Lot
Like Christmas*

Christmas Carol Concert

TICKETS £10 | REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Friday 1st December 2023
Holy Trinity Church
Prospect Road, Carrickfergus
DOORS 7PM | START 7.30PM

 In aid of
East Antrim Battalion
Heritage Society 

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC109612

Concert tickets are available from Drew Buchanan.

Sunday Services

Date	Reading Number	Reader	Title & Prayer Leader	Book	Chapter & Verses
3 December 2023	1st Reading	Joanne Shimmon	HC Advent Sunday	Isaiah	Chapter 2 verses 1 - 5
	2nd Reading	Rev Alan McCann	Prayers Maurice Langley	Matthew	Chapter 24 verses 36 - 44
10 December 2023	1st Reading	Avril Waller	Service of the Word Wise Men	Matthew	Chapter verses 1 - 12
	2nd Reading	Helen Annesley	Prayers Rev Alan McCann	Matthew	Chapter 2 verses 13 - 18
17 December 2023	_____	_____	LIGHT Nativity 10.30am	_____	_____
	_____	_____	Nine Lessons and Carols 6.00pm	_____	_____
24 December 2023	_____	_____	Christingle Service 10.30am	_____	_____
Christmas Eve	_____	_____	Holy Communion 11.00pm	_____	_____
25 December 2023	_____	_____	Holy Communion 9.30am	_____	_____
Christmas Day	_____	_____	Family Service - Holy Communion 10.30am	_____	_____

Colin McIlwaine