



HOLY TRINITY

CHURCH



DECEMBER 2021

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

www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

Letter to Parishioners

John 1 verses 1-14



Dear friends,

If you were given the task of writing the Christmas story where would you begin? Which one of the four gospels would you say begins at the beginning? Well it is certainly not Mark – he begins with Jesus’ public ministry.

Matthew and Luke begin with Jesus’ birth – so they are a good reference point. But best of all is John, in my humble opinion, because he begins at the beginning. He begins with the pre-existent Jesus, the second person of the Trinity. Before we look at chapter 1 verses 1-14 turn with me to the end of John’s gospel. Here we read of the purpose of John writing his gospel. Look at chapter 20 verses 30-31. So John says he wrote his gospel that we might have enough knowledge of Jesus Christ in order that we might be saved from our sins and given the gift of eternal life. In the next chapter, 21v25, John tells us further that he has not recorded everything Jesus did or said because there just would not be the room to do so. So John tells us that the purpose of his gospel is that we might be saved – now he tells us that at the end of his gospel but at the beginning of his gospel he spells out for us the means of salvation, the plan of God to bring that about and the One who is the Saviour. So turn back with me to chapter 1.

John spends the first 14 verses of his gospel spelling out the salvation plan of God the Father for sinful man.

God’s strong desire to communicate with us.

Read *verses 1-3*. John tells us that the Word (who in verse 14 is made flesh), was with God and was God prior to creation. In fact this Word, which became flesh, created the world in which you and I now live. Not

only did He create it but He also sustains it. You see love's desire is always to create. God created the world as an expression of His love.

Verses 4-5 John tells us that the Word is the source of light and life of all men. What he is saying is this – you are without excuse this night before God because God has placed enough knowledge in our souls and our minds and in the created order for us to know that He exists. In fact if He did not exist we could not exist. He has illuminated our hearts and souls with a deep longing for Him.

Verses 6-9 John here introduces John the Baptist whose task is to be a forerunner, a messenger, one who prepares the way for the coming of the Word made flesh. John points out to us that John the Baptist is not the Word, in fact he will now fade into the background as the true light of the world's light grows brighter.

Verses 10-11 We read here at the beginning of the gospel some exciting words and yet words tinged with great sadness. The world in which we now live is under the darkness of sin. John will make great use of light and darkness in his gospel (i.e. John 3). Just as this evening the darkness of this church is broken by the light of the candles and the electric lights so the darkness of our world is broken by the light of Christ. John tells us that the world has neither understood nor overcome the light of the world. That is good news for us and yet it is also sad news. Good because Christ is not defeated, his light is not extinguished but sad news because we are part of the world that does not know or understand why he came or who he is. Then comes I think some of the saddest words in these wonderful verses. The Word came to his own and his own received him not. How sad is that? I do not think there is anything sadder, more heartbreaking than a family turning their back on a family member – who had done no wrong, no sin had he committed. Jesus came to his own people, the people of God, the ones who were awaiting his coming and they failed to understand and rejected him. But dear friends can I say to you – He comes to us this night and how many still fail to understand? He comes to us this

night and How many still reject Him? For how many even here this evening has Jesus come and yet you do not receive Him? It is a heartbreaking thing to watch someone hear, see, and know the truth about Jesus Christ and yet not receive Him.

But let us not despair John says some wonderful words next:

Verses 12-13 READ. These are beautiful words. To those who understood, to those who received and accepted Him he gave them sonship. That is he adopted them by grace into His family. Once they were orphans in the world due to their sin, now they are co-heirs with Christ because He has conferred on them the right to be called the children of God. Friends – the greatest Christmas gift, the truth of the gospel is in those words. There was a time when we were no one, when we were orphans, when we were lost and helpless in our sin but now through faith in the Word made flesh we have been adopted by grace and become the children of God. How?

Verse 14 – here is one of the most profound theological statements ever written. John says that the Word, God, the Creator, the one who breathes life and light into the souls of men, the one who brings sonship and adoption into being – came to live amongst us. John deliberately uses the word ‘sarx’ meaning flesh. He says the Word became flesh (that is became human like us, except for sin) and dwelt amongst us – that is pitched his tent amongst us.

God meets us where we are. That is the great news of Christmas. God did not remain aloof, beyond us. He did not abandon us in our sin. He did not wash his hands of us and say: ‘good riddance.’ No, He became like one of us in order that he might save us from our sins and give us eternal life. Joan Osborne sang a song which has the following lines:

*If God had a name, what would it be?
And would you call it to his face,
If you were faced with him in all his glory?*

*What would you ask if you had just one question?
What if God was one of us?*

Friends his name is Jesus Christ. If he stood here now in all his risen glory we would fall at his feet in humble adoration and worship him with all that we had. What would I ask him – why do you love me so, unworthy as I am?

God became one of us in Christ Jesus in order that we might know the extent of his great love for us. He became one of us in order that we might know forgiveness of our sins. He became one of us in order that we might become his sons and his daughters. He became one of us so that we might know the joy of being in love with him and the joy of Him loving us. Brothers and sisters in Christ – he became flesh that we might know love, that we might know what it is to be loved, that we might know that we are his beloved children. John said I have written these things that you might know that Jesus is the Christ and in knowing him know eternal life. Brothers and sisters – this Christmas welcome the Word made flesh, open your heart to the light of the world, open your life to the life he brings, open your soul to the forgiveness only he can bring. This Christmas offer him all you have, offer him all the pain and know his healing. Offer him all your praise and worship and know his blessing. This Christmas know God loves you, you are loved by him, you are his beloved, you are of great worth and value to him. How do I know this? ***READ John 1v14 and then 3v16.*** As we sing – Love came down at Christmas – may He fall afresh on us this Christmas and may we fall deeper in love with him.
yours in Christ

God Bless
Rev Dr Alan McCann

Select Vestry

Just a reminder of church housekeeping for key holders and leaders.

- Please ensure all meetings are added to the church calendar through office@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk. No meetings, training or practices should be taking place in the church building without the Office knowing.
- If you need to ‘pop into’ the church for any reason let the Rector, Secretary or Office know first.
- If you find anything that’s not working or broken e.g. fused bulb in the corridor, gently dripping tap please add to the fault list book in the kitchen. This is checked weekly.
- If you find something more serious e.g. leaking roof, toilet not flushing, please report to the Church Wardens immediately.

Rev Dr Alan McCann	028 9336 2126
Select Vestry Secretary – Marjory Edgar	07912 747 118
People’s Church Warden – Hannah Hulme	07889 052 993
People’s Gleb Warden – Fred Shasko	07999 854 267
Church Admin Secretary	028 9335 5609

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.

Thanks for your co-operation.

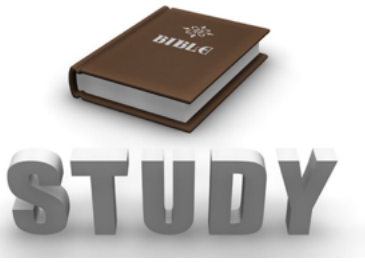
Marjory Edgar

Hon Secretary

Alan's Bible Study

Bible Study will cease on Wednesday 15th December and resume on Wednesday 12th January 2022.

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



Wednesday's

1.00pm-2.00pm - Lunch time Bible Study in the Bennett Room

- we will resume our study in Psalms

7.30pm-8.00pm - Prayer Time - Kerr Room

8.00pm-9.00pm - Bible Study - Kerr Room

Everyone will be very welcome. We will meet upstairs in the Kerr room keeping social distancing.

God bless

Rev Dr Alan McCann

Holy Trinity Admin Office Hours

The new opening hours for the Holy Trinity Administration Office are as follows:

Monday 10.00am – 12.30pm

Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday 10.00am – 12.30pm

Thursday 10.00am – 12.30pm

Friday 10.00am – 12.30pm

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.

You can find out more here www.opendoorcentre.org/babybank.

CMS Ireland



Thank you for your prayerful and financial support for the work of CMS Ireland.

Over the past year, donations to CMSI have enabled us to support local churches as they have offered practical help and spiritual hope throughout the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our global partners are embedded in their communities. They know when, where and how to respond to the challenges and needs of their neighbours. We want to stand with our partners and keep investing in their life-giving work. We ask for your continued support to help them do more of the things they have been doing this year...

In Uganda, women learnt how to make soap, improving hygiene and providing families with income. In Nepal, the government asked our partners to manage a new Covid recovery facility for marginalised folk. In South Sudan, homes were rebuilt after wildfires. In Rwanda, schools and churches have improved handwashing facilities. In Egypt, compassion and care has been shared through prison visits. In Burundi, people made bricks to build new churches. In Kenya, young people struggling with mental health were mentored and encouraged. All these responses have opened the way for people to hear the good news of a saviour who came to share in the struggles of humanity and offer new hope and new life.

It has been uplifting to see how parishes around Ireland have been enthused through connections with churches in Africa and Asia. Praying together in real time each month, sharing news directly and studying the Bible together has generated fresh ideas and a renewed commitment to mission in this land.

South American Mission Society



Warm Christian greetings to you! I want to thank you, your Select Vestry, and your parish for the prayerful and financial support given to SAMS Ireland during the past year. Your continued commitment enables us to help the Church in South America to grow deeper and stronger. It helps resource and equip leaders in a variety of ways. Your support is really valued and your prayerful and financial commitment plays a key role in these Gospel initiatives. THANK YOU. This past year, SAMS Ireland has had to check and adjust to the altered environment that Covid-19 has created. Restrictions in travel continue to affect the longterm relationships that have developed with local church mission partners in South America. We are grateful for technology such as Zoom which helps to provide for a degree of relationship through this transitional period out of the pandemic. We were delighted to make a new appointment of Mission Development Officer. Former Mission Partner from Paraguay, Claire Holmes, has taken up this part-time post. Her mission experience is proving invaluable as she plans ways in which to engage the local church in Ireland with partners in South America. Please look out for her 'Connected' videos on Facebook and YouTube. Other seasonal resources will follow. SAMS Ireland also continues to play a role in developing mission through local anglican churches through its membership off, and participation in, the 'Association of Mission Societies' (AMS). An excellent opportunity to appear on RTE 1 in May this year was as a result of cooperation between AMS and the Church of Ireland Council for Mission. The SAMS Ireland Covid response fund called 'Isaiah 12.4' project has contributed to helping those lives adversely affected by the pandemic. Mental health improvement, new skill development and overcoming youth isolation are some of the ways in which our partners have been at work helping others through the local church.

There continues to be an ongoing need for theological education, discipling development and church expansion tools. Again thank you and please convey our sincere thanks to your Select Vestry and Parish for your support.

Yours in Christ
Stephen McElhinney (Rev)
Mission Director, SAMS Ireland

Holy Trinity Bowls Fellowship



We have had a very good response to our reopening with lot of the pre-COVID regulars returning safe and well. Hope to see more new faces soon. We are open to all levels of bowlers so if you fancy learning a new sport or just want to improve your bowling skills come a long on Thursday evening from 7.20pm until 10.00pm.

All will be made welcome, the bowling's good , the craic's mighty and the tea and goodies are grand .

We will be closing for the Christmas break from after bowling on Thursday 16th December and returning on Thursday 6th January 2022. Hoping everyone will have a great and safe Christmas break and look forward to all returning January.

Take Care and God Bless
Vic Wootton

LIGHT (Sunday School)



It has been lovely once again teaching your children and getting back to some sort of normality. We are hoping they can participate in a short presentation all being well on Sunday 19th December. With this in mind, please be sure to let us know if your child is going to be absent

from Light 5th & 12th & 19th December as we would like to include all the children who have regularly been attending since September and can attend those dates. Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless

Christine (Chrissi) McDermott & the Team

Young At Heart



Our next meeting will be on Monday 6th December for our Christmas lunch at Ownies in Carrickfergus at 12.30.

Please make sure that you have given your menu choices to Joan Cummings and £5 in an envelope clearly marked with your

name. We want to wish all of our members a very happy Christmas and a very happy and healthy 2022.

God Bless

Yvonne and the team

Trinity Tots - Toddlers Group

Thursday mornings, 10.00am - 11.30am



It's been a busy few weeks getting to know our toddlers and their carers and we are getting very excited as we begin to prepare for Christmas. We have planned craft activities and are really looking forward to our Christmas party on Thursday 9th December at 10.00. Our last meeting before Christmas will be on 16th December. Sending much love to all of our members and we hope you have a fabulous Christmas.

You can be assured of a warm welcome.

God Bless

Lisa,Carolynne and Liz

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 etc.

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.

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

Fellowship Café at Holy Trinity

Every Thursday 11am – 1pm



Once a year, pre-covid 19, we set aside one Thursday to fund raise for a specific project. With restrictions and protocols in place, this year, instead of a one-off fund raiser, we decided to donate all of November's profit to a local worthy cause.

We chose the Carrick Branch of St John Ambulance, as a small token of thanks for their tireless work during the pandemic helping out the N.I. Ambulance Service. We are in a position to hand over an incredible £500, which will be used to purchase essential equipment.

A sincere thanks to everyone who visited us during November and to those in our congregation who donated outside of the café.

Our final café for 2021 will be on Thursday 16th December when we will be enjoying a festive menu.

If you are unable to visit us, you can keep in touch by following us on facebook at "Holy Trinity Fellowship Café".

All those involved with fellowship café wish you a happy, safe and blessed Christmas.

Yours in Christ
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.

Libby Todd

On behalf of the prayer team

Announcements

If you have any information you wish to pass to the congregation via the data projector, please e-mail it to Marjory Edgar at:

announcements@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

by the **Friday** afternoon of each week



Creche Rota – Dec 2021



5 th December	Helen Fittis	Laura Kerr
12 th December	Carolynne Lafferty	Lorraine Ross
19 th December	Sharon McNeill	Amy Moffett
26 th December	NO CRECHE	

Many thanks,
Laura Kerr

C.M.S Ireland Used Postage Stamps



Listen! Do you hear the sound of letterboxes flapping? Hopefully there will be plenty of that going on in your house this month. Very exciting! But please remember to keep the stamps from your envelopes, leaving a small border around them. Stamps mean money to CMS who then put it to good use in their many projects in Africa. The Christmas stamp box will make its' annual appearance on the church table.

Many thanks.
Yvonne Best

Holy Trinity Chair Rota – Dec 2021

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
James Beattie	Dougie Hempton	Graeme Hunter	Phil Moody	John Fittis
Kel McDermott	Simon McDonald	Jim McNerlan	Eddie Orr	Daniel Lafferty
Colin McIlwaine		Bert Macartney	David Sprott	Mark Taylor
Garry Richmond		Maurice Langley		John Fittis Jr
Peter Moffett				

Team	Dates			
1		5 th Dec	2 nd Jan	6 th Feb
2		12 th Dec	9 th Jan	13 th Feb
3		19 th Dec	16 th Jan	20 th Feb
4	28 th Nov	26 th Dec	23 rd Jan	27 th Feb
5			30 th Jan	



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

Avril Waller Pilates



Hello everyone,

The class has been going very well and everyone is so pleased to be back face to face again. We meet every Thursday in the main hall from 10am to 11am.

Please bring a mat, small towel, resistant band and wear comfortable clothes. No shoes needed. The cost is £6.50 per class.

As long as everyone is happy and safe, I hope to continue the class right up to Christmas.

Please wear a mask both coming in and leaving the class and use the hand sanitiser. Leave a gap between you and the next person when setting out your mat.

I look forward to seeing you. Any questions or concerns, please email me (avrilwaller@talktalk.net)

Take care,
Avril Waller, Pilates

Uplift

Uplift is looking forward to the happiest (and our busiest) time of the year! Our annual Christmas show will be taking place in the McNeill Theatre on the 18th December, and again you're all very welcome to join us for some Christmas cheer!



Thank you for supporting the local arts.

The Uplift Team

HOLY TRINITY CARRICKFERGUS

Holy Trinity

Nine Lessons and carols

Sunday December 19th at 6.00pm

Lesson	Readers
First Lesson (Genesis Chapter 3 verses 8 - 15)	Hannah Hulme
Second Lesson (Genesis Chapter 22 verses 15 - 18)	Emily Hanley
Third Lesson (Isaiah Chapter 9 verses 2, 6 & 7)	Colin Watson
Fourth Lesson (Isaiah Chapter 11 verses 1 - 9)	Christine McDermott
Fifth Lesson (Luke Chapter 1 verses 26 - 35 & 38)	Laura Kerr
Sixth Lesson (Luke Chapter 2 verses 1 - 7)	Helen Fitis
Seventh Lesson (Luke Chapter 2 verses 8 - 20)	Lorraine Ross
Eighth Lesson (Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1 - 12)	Rebecca Moody
Ninth Lesson (John Chapter 1 verses 1 - 14)	Rev Dr Alan McCann

Sunday Services

Date	Reading Number	Reader	Title & Prayer Leader	Book	Chapter & Verses
5th December 2021	1st Reading	Avril Waller	HC Never Alone	1 Samuel	Chapter 21 verse 10 to Chapter 22 verse 2
	2nd Reading	Rev Alan McCann	Prayers Maurice Langley	Psalm	Psalm 142
12th December 2021	1st Reading	Libby Todd	MP Declaration of Dependence	1 Samuel	Chapter 22 verses 3 - 23
	2nd Reading	Andrew Hanley	Prayers Rev Alan McCann	Psalm	Psalm 57
19th December 2021	Morning 10.30am	-----	'Light' Christmas Service	-----	-----
	Evening 6pm	-----	Nine Lessons & Carols	-----	-----
24th December 2021	-----	-----	11pm Christmas Eve Communion	-----	-----
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
25th December 2021	-----	-----	9am Christmas Day Communion	-----	-----
	-----	-----	10.30am Christmas Day Service	-----	-----
26th December 2021	-----	-----	Service of The Word	-----	-----

Colin McIlwaine