



**HOLY TRINITY**  

---

**CHURCH**



**DECEMBER 2024**

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

[www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk](http://www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk)

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## Letter to Parishioners

Reading: John 1 verses 1-5



Dear Friends,  
This gospel is the familiar reading at the end of the Nine Lessons and Carols. It is known as the Christmas Gospel. John in this opening prologue to his Gospel says three crucial things about Jesus, the Word, in terms of His relationship to God.

First, he is beyond all time. Lots of stories begin “Once upon a time...” but John 1 begins “Once before time...” This echoes very much the opening verses of Genesis in the beginning of Creation, but here we read of God, the Word, before Creation took place. Here is an important first lesson from this text. Jesus does not belong to the created order. He was with the Father before time began. Let me put that in simpler terms. Jesus existed long before He took on human form at Bethlehem. It is not easy for us to get our minds round that thought. It is not easy to understand or to put in to words the fact that Jesus, who was One with the Father before time began, could come as a baby born in a stable to a teenage mother. “The Word became flesh” defies all human understanding. At this moment our reason must bow to faith as our hearts bow in worship.

The second lesson we learn from verse 1 is that The Word was distinct from God : “The Word was with God.” The language used by John speaks of a personal relationship between God the Father and God the Son. The Word existed in an eternal person-to-person relationship with God. A relationship of love and intimacy between the Father and the Son.

Thirdly, we read “and the Word was God.” A better translation would be “and God was the Word.” We recite this belief in the Nicene Creed even though it defies human definition or understanding.

Jesus is the Word of Life - He is the life giving Word active both in Creation and re-Creation. Verse 3 tells us that all things came in to being through Him, no exceptions. It was through Jesus, the Word, that God created the world. So God the Father and God the Son were both involved in the creation of the world. By implication John is telling us that this is God's world and we are but stewards of it. He follows this in verse 4 by pointing out that not only is the Word the mediator of Creation but is also active in re-creation. The Word became flesh in order to bring us, condemned to death because of the Fall, life - John 10.10. How do we come to life - John 20.31 - by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Light of God (verses 5) - have you ever experienced real darkness, not just night with no lights, but physical darkness in a cave or somewhere. You are quite literally lost, physically lost and are groping around trying to find a way ahead. John uses the imagery of light to depict the darkness that we live in due to sin. John uses the word "light" twenty-one times in his gospel, it is one of his keywords and images.

As the light of the world Jesus reveals the truth about God by His life, teaching, death, resurrection and ascension. Without Christ we remain in spiritual darkness as He alone is the true light, lighting the way to a right relationship with God.

Not only does Jesus reveal the truth about God but He also reveals the truth about us - we are walking in darkness.

The physical imagery around you this evening - the candles are all representation of the light of Christ winking in the darkness of this world. Even the tiniest flame from a candle lightens up the darkness around us. Did you notice that John uses the present tense "the light shines" and not the past tense? The light shines - it never goes out, it never grows dim and it never fades away. It shines as bright in the darkness of our day as it did that first Christmas morning in Bethlehem.

The last point - the darkness did not overcome it. What a truly awesome statement? What an amazing gift is offered to us this Christmas. A light that the darkness of our lives, of our family situations, of our world around us cannot extinguish and can never overcome. In a world of chaos, despair and desolation is it good news to know that there is a light that shines in that darkness and that the darkness cannot extinguish it? What a wonderful thing John has revealed to us here in these 5 verses.

So this Christmas, as we look out on this dark world and are path is lightened by a simple candle we remember with great thankfulness in our hearts that Jesus, who was before time began, humbled himself to take on flesh and to be born of the virgin Mary in a lowly castle shed in Bethlehem. He came to us in the darkness of this world and of our lives to shine a light that leads to God and which nothing, no one, and no darkness can ever put out. Our part is to accept that gift and become the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

God bless  
*Rev Dr Alan McCann*

## **Young At Heart**



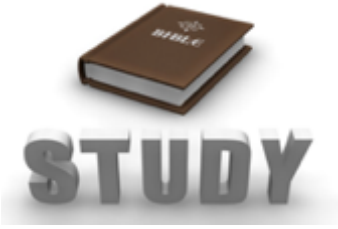
Hello everyone, it's hard to believe that our next meeting will be for our Christmas lunch on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We will meet at the later time of 11.45 to eat at 12.00 followed by some festive activities.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2025.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 11.00

God Bless  
*Yvonne and her team*

## Alan's Bible Study & Prayer Time



Please Note: Bible Study will finish for Christmas on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December and will resume Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

Bible Study continues on Wednesday's 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*

## Nine Lessons and Carols

Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 6pm.

# Storehouse



## THE STOREHOUSE

*"Showing God's love in a practical way to our community"*

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland

November 2024

Dear Friends

On behalf of Storehouse, this is just a short note to say thank you so much for your generous and regular donations in support of the work of this charity.

As you are aware, we are now dealing solely in furniture and household items and the demand for this is ever increasing. We are currently in a position where we are able to purchase brand new mattresses for each bed that we give out thanks to our own Church donating on a quarterly basis. This is such a privilege, and to see the joy on the face of the receiver blesses us as much as it blesses them.

The team are out several times a week collecting and distributing and as you can imagine, this takes a lot of organisation in the background as well as the time out and about. We would appreciate your prayers for the team who are continually lifting heavy furniture (they aren't getting any younger).

Storehouse was launched in 2007 and unfortunately, the need seems to have got greater over this period. We continue to work alongside Social Workers, Health Visitors, Cithrah, Womens Aid, New Haven Homeless Hostel, Safe Families and Christians Against Poverty

Our mission statement remains the same, "To show God's love in practical ways in our Community".

Matthew Ch 5 v 16 says Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.

God Bless

Ricky, Glynis & Team

### THE STOREHOUSE

Tel. 07887980237 Email. [info@carrickfergus.co.uk](mailto:info@carrickfergus.co.uk)  
Charity No. 251549

## 8<sup>th</sup> Carrickfergus Boys Brigade



BB will finish this term on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December and recommence on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

*Rev Dr Alan McCann*

## Trinity Tots - Toddlers Group



Thursday mornings, 10.00am - 11.30am  
for play, chat, snacks, singing and craft.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We have been enjoying our Christmas craft- Christmas angels, decorating mini trees and beautiful nativity suncatchers.

We have also been learning to sing Jingle bells and are very much looking forward to our Christmas party on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. We will be having a few weeks break and will be back together on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you to all of our lovely families for supporting our group. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

God Bless  
*Trinity Tots Team*



## 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*

## Select Vestry

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

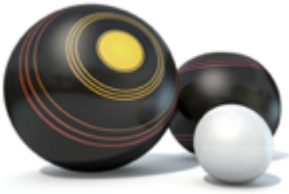
: [secretary@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk](mailto:secretary@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk)

Drew Buchanan: [treasurer@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk)

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

Hon Secretary

# Holy Trinity Bowls Fellowship



*Your Invitation to join us*

Where do we meet: Holy Trinity Church – Prospect Road

When: Every Thursday - 7.30 pm

## **Why should you come??**

Our emphasis is on - FRIENDLINESS

Do we play league matches ? - No

No pressure to play matches at home or away

Never played before? - We will show you how

No bowls? - No Problem – we have some

Age Limit? - Yes - Over 18 please (except – see below)

(15-17 – must be accompanied by a parent at all times)

Ask for - Vic or Jack (when you arrive)

Look forward to seeing you there.

We plan to close for the Christmas break, our last night being Thursday 19th December and starting back on Thursday 9th January 2025.

Please feel free to join us

God bless  
*Vic Wooton*

## Holy Trinity Fundraising Update

Dear all,

Thank you all once again for supporting Holy Trinity's fundraising events.

So far together we have raised a grand total of £4288.17 to help support Holy Trinity.

My special thanks and appreciation must go to the Fundraising team and all those who help set up, clear up, decorate, bake, donate, come along and make these events happen.

Fundraising plans for 2025 include a Plant Sale, so I will be asking all you 'green fingered' folk if you could kindly take cuttings, and plant seeds in the Spring for this event, which is planned for Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May (11am -3pm). If you wish to donate some plant pots, gardening books, or seeds basically all things gardening you are very welcome, all donations gratefully received nearer the time.

Plus, the Harvest Fayre is set to become an annual event and will return on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025 with crafts, food, fun and fellowship.

Once again thank you all for your help and support.

Happy Christmas!

Karen

Together we can reach & raise

*reach out to the wider community & raise vital funds for Holy Trinity because **God is Good all the time.***

*Karen Hambleton*

## Carrickfergus Food Bank (JVC Church)

Please place non-perishable donations into the 2 black bins in the entrance hall. The food is delivered monthly.

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

## Fellowship Café at Holy Trinity



**Every Thursday  
10.30am – 12.30pm**

A massive thank you to all those who supported our annual fund-raising project either by donating or visiting our café.

This year we raised funds for Horatio's Garden in the grounds of the spinal unit at Musgrave Park Hospital. It is an area set aside for patients and their families to relax and recover following spinal surgery. It also contains workshops for arts and crafts. Our donation will help maintain the gardens. The final total will be announced during the Sunday service on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our final café of the year will be on Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup> after which we will present our 11<sup>th</sup> annual accounts to the Select Vestry. DV, we plan to re-open on Thursday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2025.

If you still haven't visited us, please call in any Thursday morning. A warm welcome awaits.

If it's good company and a chance to sit and chat then fellowship café is the place to be. If it's peace and quiet to sit and read a book then we can accommodate that as well.

So, no reason not to call in.

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**

## C.M.S Ireland Used Postage Stamps



Have you bought your Christmas cards yet? Perhaps you have started writing them. We all love giving and receiving cards at this time of the year. Please remember that every card that comes through your door bears a used postage stamp that could bring money to this important missionary society. Please save them for us, remembering to leave a BROAD envelope border surrounding them. (Unfortunately we cannot use stamps that are pre-imprinted on the envelopes.) It is surprising how everyone's small contribution soon mounts up.

Many thanks,  
*Yvonne Best*

## Creche Rota –December 2024



|                      |                          |              |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec  | Helen Fittis             | Lauren Baird |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | Carolynne Lafferty       | Gemma Fittis |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Joanne Hunter            | Laura Kerr   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec | NO CRECHE FAMILY SERVICE |              |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Lorraine Ross            | Maureen Lunn |

Many thanks,  
*Laura Kerr*

## 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.

### 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    |                      | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec   |
| 2    |                      | 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec   |
| 3    |                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 25 |
| 4    | 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov | 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan   |
| 5    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan   |
| 6    | 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan   |
| 7    | 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb    |

*Karen Buchanan*

## Welcome Team Rota

| Teams   | Dates                |                          |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Jenny Wightman<br>Karen Buchanan                |                      | 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec      |
| Jack Blair<br>Hazel Blair                       |                      | 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec     |
| Liz Adair<br>Janis Gibson                       |                      | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec     |
| Maureen Lunn<br>Adrienne Tasker                 |                      | 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec     |
| Eva Dunn<br>Eleanor Steele                      |                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 |
| Sharon McNeill<br>Alison Moffett                |                      | 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan     |
| Libby Todd<br>Marjory Edgar                     |                      | 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan     |
| Arlene Macartney<br>Wenda Gray                  |                      | 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan     |
| Ann Calvert<br>Lorraine Hagan                   |                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb      |
| Joanne Hunter<br>Laura Kerr                     |                      | 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb      |
| Yvonne Best<br>Jennifer Hamilton<br>Gwen Wilson |                      | 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb     |
| Kel McDermott<br>Maurice Langley                |                      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb     |
| Donna Harrison<br>Sue Majury                    | 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar      |
| Elaine Wright<br>Joan Cummings                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec  | 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar      |

*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  | Phil Moody     | Bert Macartney  | Richard Hambleson |                 |
| Peter Moffett   |                | Maurice Langley |                   |                 |

| Team | Dates                |                      |                        |                      |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1    |                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan 25 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb  |
| 2    |                      | 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb  |
| 3    |                      | 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec | 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | 16 <sup>th</sup> Frb |
| 4    | 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec | 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb |
| 5    |                      | 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec |                        |                      |



**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*



# BB Heritage Museum

THE BOYS' BRIGADE EAST ANTRIM BATTALION HERITAGE SOCIETY

## Christmas Concert



TICKETS  
£10

INCLUDES  
LIGHT  
SUPPER

With 3rd Carrick Band and the BB Centenary Choir  
Holy Trinity Church, Prospect Road, Carrickfergus

Friday 6th December 2024

Doors 7pm Start 7-30pm

Tickets available from Drew Buchanan.

# Sunday Services

| Date               | Reading Number | Reader          | Title & Prayer Leader                    | Book            | Chapter & Verses          |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1st December 2024  | 1st Reading    | Lorraine Ross   | HC                                       | 1 Thessalonians | Chapter 5 verses 16 - 28  |
|                    | 2nd Reading    | Rev Alan McCann | Prayers<br>Fred Shasko                   | Matthew         | Chapter 24 verses 36 - 51 |
| 8th December 2024  | 1st Reading    | Wenda Grey      | Service of the Word - Advent II          | Isaiah          | Chapter 40 verses 1 - 11  |
|                    | 2nd Reading    | Alison Moffett  | Prayers<br>Rev Alan McCann               | Matthew         | Chapter 11 verses 38 - 42 |
| 15th December 2024 | 10.30am        | _____           | Light Nativity                           | _____           | _____                     |
| 22nd December 2024 | 10.30am        | _____           | Christmas Family Service                 | _____           | _____                     |
|                    | 6pm            | _____           | Nine Lessons and Carols Service          | _____           | _____                     |
| 24th December 2024 | 11pm           | _____           | Christmas Eve Holy Communion             | _____           | _____                     |
| 25th December 2024 | 9am            | _____           | Christmas Day Holy Communion             | _____           | _____                     |
|                    | 10.30am        | _____           | Family Service & Holy Communion          | _____           | _____                     |
| 29th December 2024 | _____          | _____           | Service of the Word - Reflective Service | _____           | _____                     |

*Colin McIlwaine*