



HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH



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JANUARY 2025

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

www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

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Letter to Parishioners



Dear friends,

please read: Matthew 5 verses 13-16

Here we are at the beginning of another year, 2025. No doubt some people have made New Year Resolutions - lose weight, go to the gym more, learn a new skill or language. It may even

be that you made yourself a promise last night, or even God a promise, that you would read the bible, pray and serve Him better in 2025 than 2024. Well, I want to challenge us all from God's Word to be 'Salt and Light Christians' in 2025 - beginning as individuals and then as a community of believers. Turn with me to our gospel reading - Matthew 5 verses 13-16. Four short verses which use everyday objects as a metaphor for our Christian lives.

Allow me to set the context for what Christ Jesus teaches in these verses to the people sitting on the Mount of Olives. If you look back at the beginning of the chapter you will see the Beatitudes. A list of 9 people and when you read them it seems impossible that such people could in any way influence the world in which they live. No doubt there were some listening that morning to Christ, maybe even amongst the disciples, who were thinking (or even saying to others) that it all sounded wonderful, even beautiful, but in the reality of everyday life, especially in a land under occupation by Rome, they were fanciful ideas that could not be lived out and certainly were not going to make a difference in the society of the day. It may be that you have had such thoughts, feelings or you may have even lamented that it seems Christians have no say or influence in the society in which we are called to live in today.

Just as a little aside - if you want the practical outworking and application of the Beatitudes read the book of James. Christ's half-brother puts

practical application on every one of the 9 Beatitudes as he writes his epistle.

Let us come back to our Gospel reading. So the context is the Mount of Olives, Jesus teaching His disciples and an assembly of people. He has given the foundation of all that He will say - the Beatitudes and now He starts to work them out in their lives.

Verse 13 - begins with a very emphatic 'You.' I can imagine Jesus making eye contact first with the disciples and then when those assembled in front of Him thought: 'Ah, this is only for the 12', Jesus slowly turns to them and catches their eye and points a finger and says: "You are the salt of the earth..." A common everyday substance that was of immense importance in the ancient near east. Salt was used not only to flavour food but to preserve food as well. It was used to clean and to purify all sorts of utensils and even rubbed on new born babies to protect them against bacteria. Pliny the Elder, who was a contemporary of Christ, said there was nothing more useful than salt and light - in Latin it reads 'Sale et Sole.'

So Salt has its every day uses in the ancient near east. It is a common household item, found in every home (no matter how poor), everyone would have been familiar with it, its taste and uses. It wasn't something extraordinary but a common everyday item. Remember that - Christ is saying it is common everyday life that makes the difference - not the extraordinary - because the truth is most of us live lives that are not extraordinary but mundane, even boring, every day common lives. We do and live ordinary lives and it is those every day ordinary lives that we are to be 'salt.' But How?

Please read carefully what I am writing now because I believe this is our calling as followers of Christ Jesus in the year ahead - both as individuals who love and follow Christ and together as the people of God in this

community. Salt - is used here to speak of your character, as depicted in verses 3-12 in the Beatitudes. This is serious business - look at the Beatitudes - is that a reflection of your character? It should be! If you want to be salt then those 9 Beatitudes should be seen in your life - not occasionally but every day, just like the use of salt.

Salt purifies - can that be said about you or about us as a congregation? When we are present are we means of purity in the conversation, in the behaviour, in the attitudes etc? You see salt stings, especially when it gets in to a wound. It stings and it does hurt but its purpose is to purify. It acts as a disinfectant to bring healing. Could that be said of you? Your words, your actions and attitudes towards people could it be said to bring about purity, cleansing and healing? That is quite a question is it not? Quite a challenge for us all. Are you a moral disinfectant in your home - by what you permit to be listened to, watched, brought in and the behaviour you condone, turn a blind eye to and approve of? Read the Words of Christ - 'You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste...no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.' Have you lost your saltiness? Has your christian faith lost its flavour before your family and friends because you have lacked the courage to say 'No, much as I love you, this is not acceptable in my life, in my home etc?' I know it sounds harsh and I know it stings but that is because it is 'salt.'

Do you remember when you were on fire for God? Do you remember when you loved His Word, to sing His praise, to be with His people? What happened? Why now the apathy, the bitterness, the resentment of God's people and the preaching of God's Word - you lost your saltiness?

Christ speaks plainly - it is of no use except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. Let us be honest that is often how our witness, when we do have the courage to be salt, is treated by family, friends etc - Why because the rest of our lives has not 'salt' in evidence - we are no different than

they are and so why should they listen to our hypocritical moralising. Well, I have laboured that point long enough.

Verses 14-15 - Light. Twinkle, twinkle little star, How I wonder what you are? Ever been asked that because of your life? Again Christ begins with an emphatic 'You.' He says those who follow me, and none others, are the light of the world. The true Light of the World is Christ Jesus and as His people we reflect His light in our lives, through our lives and by our lives. Remember that your light is derived from Christ and not from within yourself. We are responsible for how visible it is but it is not something we create or produce ourselves. The only possibility of being light to the world is in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Light again symbolises purity as opposed to filth and error. It is the divine presence amongst His people which is reflected by and through His people to a dark and sinful world. The key function of light is for the benefits of others and not the light itself.

Look at verse 15 for a moment - you do not light a light and hide it. I wonder if after the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension did the disciples think about how they ran away and hid after His arrest in Gethsemane. I wonder as Matthew wrote these words did a pang of guilt pierce his heart and mind? Jesus says when you light a light and put it on a hill then all see it. It is fairly obvious, not easily hidden from the world around. Yet how many of you live hidden lives as Christians? Lighting a light and hiding it serves no purpose. Do you understand that this morning. Look at verse 16 - here is your purpose as light in this dark world. Not that you are to get the glory. Not that people are to commend you for your good works but that they glorify God your Father in heaven. The simple question arises, doesn't it, Do people know that your good deeds are for God's glory?

Two things arise there - do we actually do good deeds? Secondly, for whose glory do we do them? You see I am always suspicious when some

video clip arrives up on Facebook with guys leaving £100 tip in the McDonalds outlet. Whose glory is that for? Usually there is then 1000's of likes etc. You have had your reward says Christ - but it is better that such was done without the fanfare video to the glory of your Father who will reward you. There is a true balance to be achieved in this - the key is actually our hearts - which takes us right back again to the Beatitudes which are the context for this teaching.

The person or community that seeks to hide its allegiance to Christ has ceased to follow Christ. If you want to learn about the cost of following Christ let me recommend you read such books as Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom, Brother Andrew or Tortured for Christ or the biography of Helen Rosevere.

So, in closing this letter, accept in 2025 the responsibility placed on you by Christ, to be salt and light in this world. 'You...' emphatically speaking to you as an individual and to us all as His church at Holy Trinity Woodburn.

Salt and Light both affect their environment. They change everything they touch and come in to contact with. They do so by portraying God's purity, love and mercy. You cannot be salt or light by withdrawing from the world.

Salt and light are every day common objects - seen and used by all. So you have no excuse this morning. You cannot claim I do not have any 'gift' or 'ability' because salt and light has nothing to do with 'giftedness' or 'ability' nor even 'calling' - they are both about your 'character' - about who you are and how you live. No one is excused in 2025.

So in 2025 - be salt and light. Be the people of God and live for His glory and His glory alone.

yours in Christ
Rev Dr Alan McCann

Young At Heart



Happy New Year everyone. Our first meeting of 2025 will be on Monday 6th January at 11.00. We will be having our annual Bring and Buy sale and proceeds will be donated to a charity- details on the day. We will also welcome a speaker named Joy whose topic is " Women in the Bible".

God Bless
Yvonne and her committee

Alan's Bible Study & Prayer Time

*****Note New Times*****

Bible Study resumes on Wednesday 11th January 2025 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 |
| 7.00pm-7.30pm | - Prayer Time - Kerr Room |
| 7.30pm-8.30pm | - Bible Study |

Everyone will be very welcome.

God bless
Rev Dr Alan McCann

LIGHT (Sunday School)



Happy New Year to leaders, Light children & parents/guardians! By now you will have enjoyed our lovely children in the Christmas Nativity (22/12/24)- aren't they wonderful? We are so blessed with children who want to learn about Jesus and who want to contribute in their

own way to the Nativity as well as we, as leaders prepare for them. Thank you children- we love teaching you! LIGHT resumes Sunday 5th January 2025 & we have 3 weeks of learning in more depth, The Lord's prayer before reverting to our usual resources/work sheets. A great topic to start 2025!

Chrissi McDermott & the team.

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

Trinity Tots - Toddlers Group



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

Hello again everyone, we hope you had a great Christmas. We will be meeting on Thursday 9th for play, singing and the all important snacks. If you know of any pre school children and their carers please do invite them to join us, they will be assured of a warm welcome. If any member of our congregation would like to join us as a helper, please speak to Liz. An extra pair of hands would always be appreciated.

God Bless
Trinity Tots Team

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.

Select Vestry

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

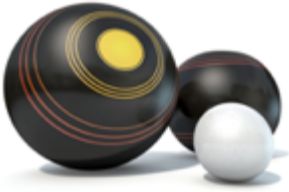
: secretary@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

Drew Buchanan: treasurer@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

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

Hon Secretary

Holy Trinity Bowls Fellowship



That's another year gone , thanks to everyone who attended and participated in what has been a fun bowling year.

We will restart on Thursday 9th January 2025 , hope to see you all.

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 all there.

Happy New Year to one and all.

God bless
Vic Wooton

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 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.

Fellowship Café at Holy Trinity



**Every Thursday
10.30am – 12.30pm**

For those who missed the news, the total for our annual fund-raising project ended at £612. This was passed to Horatio's Garden in the grounds of the Spinal Unit at Musgrave Park Hospital. It will be used to maintain the gardens and to help with improvements in the future.

This brings the total of donations made to worthy causes, since we began in 2014, to £28,800.

We plan to re-open, following the Christmas break, on Thursday January 9th.

Due to an assortment of circumstances some of our team members have had to temporarily step down. Whilst we will still function, we would welcome help from you, our congregation, so as to reduce the burden on our existing team. If you have a spare couple of hours on the occasional Thursday, we would be delighted to welcome you on board.

You will even get a free Polo shirt!! What we are looking for are volunteers who could simply make tea or serve food or collect and wash dishes or simply sit and chat with our visitors.

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

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



Phew! What a busy time Christmas is! Now, that it is all over, we have the job of packing away all our decorations. But don't be throwing away those used stamps with all your wrapping paper and cards. I hope you have put them away carefully to one side and place them in my Christmas box on the church table. Remember every stamp means money that CMS Ireland can use in the many projects they operate in Africa. Also remember to leave a broad border around the stamps, otherwise they cannot be used.

Yvonne Best

Creche Rota –January 2025



5 th January	M. Lunn	J. Hunter
12 th January	G. Fittis	L. Baird
19 th January	L. Ross	C. Lafferty
26 th January	NO CRECHE FAMILY SERVICE	

Many thanks,
Laura Kerr

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		9 th Feb
2	29 th Dec	16 th Feb
3	5 th Jan 25	23 rd Feb
4	12 th Jan	2 nd Mar
5	19 th Jan	9 th Mar
6	26 th Jan	16 th Mar
7	2 nd Feb	23 rd Mar

Karen Buchanan

Welcome Team Rota

Teams	Dates	
Jenny Wightman Karen Buchanan		16 th Mar
Jack Blair Hazel Blair		23 rd Mar
Liz Adair Janis Gibson		30 th Mar
Maureen Lunn Adrienne Tasker	29 th Dec 2024	6 th Apr
Eva Dunn Eleanor Steele	5 th Jan 2025	13 th Apr
Sharon McNeill Alison Moffett	12 th Jan	20 th Apr
Libby Todd Marjory Edgar	19 th Jan	27 th Apr
Arlene Macartney Wenda Gray	26 th Jan	4 th May
Ann Calvert Lorraine Hagan	2 nd Feb	11 th May
Joanne Hunter Laura Kerr	9 th Feb	18 th May
Yvonne Best Jennifer Hamilton Gwen Wilson	16 th Feb	25 th May
Kel McDermott Maurice Langley	23 rd Feb	1 st Jun
Donna Harrison Sue Majury	2 nd Mar	8 th Jun
Elaine Wright Joan Cummings	9 th Mar	15 th Jun

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		5 th Jan 25	2 nd Feb	2 nd Mar
2		12 th Jan	9 th Feb	9 th Mar
3		19 th Jan	16 th Feb	16 th Mar
4		26 th Jan	23 rd Feb	23 rd Mar
5	29 th Dec			30 th 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

Sunday Services

Date	Reading Number	Reader	Title & Prayer Leader	Book	Chapter & Verses
5th January 2025	1st Reading	Colin McIlwaine	HC	Amos	Chapter 1 verses 1 - 8
	2nd Reading	Rev Alan McCann	Prayers Yvonne Best	Amos	Chapter 1 verses 9 - 15
12th January 2025	1st Reading	Joan Cummings	MP	Amos	Chapter 2 verses 1 - 8
	2nd Reading	Helen Annesley	Prayers Rev Alan McCann	Amos	Chapter 2 verses 9 - 16
19th January 2025	1st Reading	Avril Waller	MP	Amos	Chapter 3 verses 1 - 10
	2nd Reading	Derek Burnside	Prayers Maurice Langley	Amos	Chapter 3 verses 11 - 15
26th January 2025	1st Reading	_____	Family Service	_____	_____
	2nd Reading	_____	_____	_____	_____

Colin McIlwaine