

COME, CELEBRATE ADVENT

with us at

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

**PROSPECT ROAD
WOODBURN, CARRICKFERGUS**



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

www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Alan McCann	93362126
Jack Blair	93378130
Rector's Warden – Bill Lunny	93361453
People's Warden – Vic Wootton	93360653
GB Captain – Irenè Moffett MBE	93367678
BB Captain – Drew Buchanan MBE	93365620
Potter's House Supt. – Vicky Watson	93360523
Youth Club Leader – Maurice Dalzell	93351236

Reading: Luke ch. 1 vs. 26 – 38

Mary discovers she is having a baby!

In the Oscars there is a category for 'best supporting actress', Mary would be awarded just such an accolade for her role in the Nativity. Unfortunately we know very little about her. In verse 27 we read that she 'is engaged to a man whose name is Joseph, of the house of David.' An engagement (or betrothal) in that day was as binding as marriage itself, and could be dissolved only by divorce. Betrothal normally took place on a girl's 13th birthday. Luke emphasises the purity of Mary, like all girls of her day and age, in verses 27 and 34. Luke tells us that in the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy (a miracle in itself) the angel Gabriel comes to Mary and announces the 'good news.' In verse 28 Gabriel greets Mary as 'highly favoured.' The Greek word 'favoured' (kecharitomene) has, at its root, the word for grace (charis). The clear implication is that this favour is undeserved, it is all of grace. Mary is perplexed at this greeting and, as we read on through the passage, she is even more perplexed by the message that Gabriel brings. Every woman believes their firstborn is special, but Mary's firstborn is in a different league. He is the long awaited Messiah, who will come to free His people from their sins. Take a moment and look at verse 34. Mary's first reaction is not the identity of her son but rather the fact that she is to give birth to a son. For Mary, the thought of having a child during her year of betrothal is unthinkable. And so it is. Virgin births do not happen in the real world; Mary knows that, Luke knows that and so do his readers. Gabriel, in answer to her question, simply assigns all responsibility to God (verse 35) because nothing is impossible with God (verse 37) Unlike Sarah, (Genesis ch.18), Mary did not laugh. She quietly accepted God's will for her life (verse 38). Whereupon the angel Gabriel departs, his mission accomplished. There are some simple lessons for us this Christmas from this familiar passage:

God surprises - with God the impossible becomes possible.

All of grace - God's favour rests on an ordinary young girl.

The response of faith – is the only true response to God's grace.

The costliness of obedience – Mary's acceptance of this call of God on her life was to lead to shame and disgrace. That will also be true of us.

So, this Christmas, I pray God surprises you with His grace and that you respond by faith. It may be a costly call to obedience but the blessings will be the greatest gift you have ever known.

God Bless you all. **Rev. Alan McCann**

NINE LESSONS and CAROLS

Sunday December 20th at 6pm.

Please take this opportunity to invite someone to hear the message of Christmas through the reading of God's Word and the music.

SANTA is coming to Holy Trinity on Sunday December 13th!!!! He will be at the service to receive gifts from the children for distribution throughout Northern Ireland this Christmas. This is in conjunction with the Church of Ireland Board for Social Action.

VESTRY HOUR

Rev. Alan McCann will be at Holy Trinity every Wednesday between 6.30 and 7.30pm to discuss weddings, baptisms etc. and any Christian topic that is troubling you.

BIBLE STUDY

To become closer to God He wants us all to study his Word. Here are some opportunities to fulfil His wishes.

Parish Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the computer suite and is led by Rev. Alan McCann. Here you will be able to read, study and discuss passages from the bible and to receive answers to questions. We are currently studying the Acts of the Apostles

Inductive Bible Study: is led by Jack Blair and meets in the Henly Room every Wed. at 7.30pm. This year sees the study of the 3 letters of John.

Men's Bible Fellowship is for all men of the congregation. We meet in God's name on the second Monday of every month with our next meeting on Dec. 14th at the home of Davey Mulligan. We will continue with 2Timothy at ch 3, discussing it's implications and then relating it to men in Carrickfergus in 2009. A great way to study God's Word in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Please speak to me for further details.

God Bless. *Maurice Langley*

Ladies Bible Study is for the ladies of the congregation and meets at the home of Libby Todd every Tuesday at 10am. We are currently looking at the book of Colossians. Please speak to me for further details.

God Bless. *Libby Todd.*

A TIME OF PRAYER

On Wednesday December 2nd we have the opportunity to come together to spend time in prayer. A chance to pray for, and to give thanks for, the work being done, within Holy Trinity and by Holy Trinity, in the local community. Please come along anytime between 7.30pm and 8.30pm.

There will be no bible study groups on this evening.

BUCHANAN TRUST

The Trustees held a meeting in November and were delighted to award 11 grants totalling £300. The Trust provides small grants of no more than £100 to young people of Holy Trinity, aged between 11 and 25 years who are undertaking training or the like in Christian Youth Work. Applications must be made in writing setting out briefly the project being undertaken and handed to Janis Gibson. The decision of the Trustees on any application will be final. The Trust next meets in February 2010.

FUND RAISING

Our organised programme of fund raising events will be finalised during December when we will, again, have the giant Christmas Card available on Sunday 6th, 13th, and 20th for you to sign. Please donate at least £5 to the building fund instead of handing out cards to your friends at Holy Trinity. It is hard to think that we started this round of fundraising last year with the Card and then attempted to organise a variety of events to suit all ages and tastes during the coming twelve months. We had a Candlelit Dinner; Beetle Drive; Easter colouring competition, sponsored relay team in the Belfast marathon; a May Sale; Treasure Hunt; Band Concert; clothes recycling; Winter Sale and successful Dance and Soccer Academies.

I would like to thank the team for their work during this successful year when as a church, we raised an additional £12750 towards the Holy Trinity Building Fund target of £75000. With the December monthly donations still to come, plus the Gift Aid, we will be close to reaching this target.

Thanks to the team: Sharon Skelly, Anne Langley, Moira Cameron, Edwin Moffett, Derek Burnside.

HARVEST APPEAL 2010: Letters explaining this are still available in the entrance. If you haven't completed and returned your reply slip please pray about it and then return it to Edwin Moffett, even if you cannot commit to this appeal. So far 30 members of the congregation have pledged approx. £20000.

As their contribution to the fund raising appeal our young people are busy rehearsing for a 'Broadway-type Show' to be staged early in 2010. Please keep watching, for further details. God Bless.

Drew Buchanan MBE Chair of the Fund Raising Committee

YOUTH CLUB NEWS

Last night of Youth Club for this year will be on Friday December 11th when we will be having a disco with our very own DJ, Ryan. Club will close at the usual time of 10pm. We will re-open on Friday January 8th at 7.30pm. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

God Bless. *Bert Macartney*

THE POWER OF PRAYER



ARE YOU in need? troubled? lonely? anxious? angry? resentful? worried? feeling sinful? spiritually, physically or emotionally unwell?

GOD WANTS TO HELP!

There will be two members of our Prayer team available in the prayer room after the service every Sunday. Please accept our warm invitation to come for prayer for yourself or someone you know. Prayers are confidential and will not be discussed outside of the prayer room. There will be a notice on the Prayer Room door indicating when the room is free and the team will be available until the wardens lock the building (approx. 12.30)

Additionally, Prayer Team meets most Thursdays at 7.30pm should you need to call in for prayer. (see Prayer notice board for details)

Please also make use of the prayer request forms which can be found on the left hand side as you enter church. Simply complete the form and place it in the prayer box. The requests will be lifted in prayer for one month, after which time please complete another request should the situation require further prayer or we need updated. God Bless

The Prayer Team: Nicky Quigg, Joan Harvey, Libby Todd,
Johanne Moore, Linda Horner, Vera Saunderson,
Alison Allen, Stuart Purvis, Fiona Moody.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

Please remember those less fortunate than ourselves, especially over the Christmas period.

Please remember our brothers and sisters facing persecution.

Please ask for God's healing hands on those who are ill.

Please pray for our enemies that God can touch their hearts.

Please pray that the Anglican Church will remain faithful to the Gospel.

Please remember those who do not know the joy of loving Jesus Christ

POINTS FOR PRAISE

Give thanks for His blessings today.

Give thanks for those who prepare our building every week.

Give thanks for those who protect our country from our enemies.

Praise God for blessing us with Alan and Jack.

Give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Thank God for Jesus

YOUNG AT HEART is for all ladies over the age of 55 years and meets on the first Monday of every month at 11.30am for chat, tea and craic.

New members always welcome. God Bless. *Ann and Eva.*

BOYS BRIGADE NEWS

As always, it has been a very busy year in the BB, with Enrolment, Anchor Boys colouring competition, football, badminton, table tennis and volleyball. All information on these and other activities are on the website: www.8thcarrickbb.org.uk

The Company won the Battalion Roy McCune Trophy again and the Junior Section won the Battalion Fitzell trophy for the second year running.

Saturday December 5th is the Anchor Boys outing to the Pantomime at Ballyearl.

Sunday December 6th is the Battalion joint Anchor Boys /Junior Section Carol Service at Larne at 3.30pm.

Monday December 14th is the day of the Christmas Parties.

Boys Brigade will close on Mon. Dec. 21st and re-open on Mon. Jan. 4th 2010.

I would ask all Company Section boys to return their BB Week cards.

On behalf of the Company I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

God Bless. *Drew Buchanan MBE – Captain.*

Pilates - at Holy Trinity

Good for your back and your tummy!! Thursdays from 10.00 – 11.00am.

The final class of the year will be on Thursday December 10th and will re-commence on Thursday January 7th 2010. For further details please contact

Avril Waller on 93355129 or e-mail: avrilwaller@talktalk.net

Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Clubs – at Holy Trinity

Tuesdays from 10.00 – 11.30am includes weigh in, motivational talk and 45 minutes of exercise. The final class of the year will be on Tuesday December 8th and will re-commence on Tuesday January 5th 2010.

For further details please contact Avril Waller on 93355129

or e-mail: avril.waller@rosemaryconley.com

CONGREGATION CHRISTMAS DINNER

Due to the recent problems in the kitchen it has been necessary to postpone the Congregation Christmas Dinner, which was planned for Thursday December 3rd.

We will keep you posted as to the re-arranged date.

RAMBLE IN THE WOODS!!! You and your friends (and dogs) are invited to a ramble through Woodburn Woods (accessible for child's buggies) on Monday Dec. 28th at 10.30am, meeting at Woodburn Presb. Church. Hot soup and rolls available afterwards. See Kel for further details.

CRECHE ROTA.

Sunday December 6 th	Lorraine Ross	Amy Anderson
	Lorraine Saunderson-Brown	Carlee C Sounart
Sunday December 13 th	Joan Harvey	Anne Langley
	Arlene Macartney	Joan Cummings
Sunday December 20 th	No crèche, although the room will be available	
Sunday December 27 th	and set up ready.	

Please swap with someone else on the rota if you are unable to do your day.

Thanks to everyone who helps. If you would like to be included on the rota or wish to change your slot please speak to me. God Bless. **Fiona Moody**

Tel: 93360463 Mobile: 07814745181

e-mail: philandfionamoody@yahoo.co.uk

UPLIFT PERFORMING ARTS is putting on a Christmas Show on Saturday December 12th at 6.30pm. It will take place right here in Holy Trinity and is bound to be good craic!! You can bring your whole family since it's **FREE**. The young people are so excited and we want them to have the best show possible, so that means we need the best audience in all of Northern Ireland, YOU. Oh, and don't worry, you'll be home in time for the X Factor final. We can't wait to see you there! Please speak to any of us for further information and to reserve your seat. God Bless and Merry Christmas. **Amy, Carlee and Ryan.**

DATES TO REMEMBER DURING DECEMBER

(other than our regular weekly activities)

Wed 2nd Evening of prayer. Please call in anytime between 7.30 – 8.30pm.

Mon 7th Young at Heart 11.30am.

Sat 12th Concert by members of Uplift Performing Arts 6.30pm.

Mon 14th Men's Bible Fellowship at 7.30pm.

Mon 21st-Sat 26th Whilst doing your last minute shopping, purchase non-perishable foods, personal hygiene and household products to leave at church on Sunday 27th for distribution in Carrickfergus by Social Services.

FACE TO FACE

Please keep a note in your 2010 diary for our next meeting which will be on

Thursday January 21st. when we will be discussing how we, as parents, grandparents and leaders can help to encourage our children to develop into strong and secure young people. Please come along and bring a friend – you will be made very welcome. God Bless. **The Face to Face Committee**

DID YOU KNOW??.... So that a service can take place at Holy Trinity on a Sunday morning, it takes the commitment of at least 29 members of the congregation!! If you want to be no.30 please speak to the wardens for advice.

SERVICES -

Sunday 6th. 10.30am

First reading: 1John ch5 vs 13 - 21

Second reading: John ch15 vs 9 - 17

Prayer leader:

Sunday 13th. 10.30am

First reading: Deuteronomy ch8 vs 11 - 18

Second reading: Matthew ch10 vs 24 - 39

Prayer leader:

Sunday 20th. 10.30am

6pm

Thursday 24th. 11.30pm

Friday 25th. 9.30am

10.30am

Sunday 27th. 10.30am

DECEMBER 2009

**Holy Communion
Disciples at Holy Trinity**

Vic Wootton

Rev Alan McCann

David Mulligan

**Morning Prayer
Disciples: living it out**

Kenny Cameron

Linsey Mulligan

Rev. Alan McCann

Children's Nativity

Nine Lessons and Carols

Holy Communion - by candlelight

Holy Communion

**Family Service
and**

Holy Communion

Family Service

VISION COMMITMENT

I will strive to:

Pray daily for Holy trinity

Worship weekly at Holy Trinity

Read and study the Bible daily

Serve at and beyond Holy Trinity

Be in a relationship to encourage spiritual growth

Give sacrificially of my time, talents and resources

Amen

