



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



Leadership Team

Rev Dr Alan McCann	028 9336 2126
Lay Reader - Jack Blair	07766 527 552
Music Ministry – Louise Hanley	028 9332 8976
Rector's Churchwarden – Richard Hambleton	07857 143 357
People's Churchwarden – Karen Hambleton	07767 157 037
People's Glebewarden – Terry Shimmon	07796 712 557
Select Vestry Secretary –	
GB Captain– Hannah Hulme	07889 052 993
BB Captain – Contact Admin Office	028 9335 5609
Contact for Light – Christine McDermott	07746 041 007
Church Admin Secretary	028 9335 5609

JUNE 2025

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

www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk

Letter to Parishioners



Dear Friends,
Are you big enough to forgive?

I want you to imagine a television commercial in which you see a teenager being mocked by school mates and running into her home crying. The next scene is of the same girl in a shop purchasing a bottle of ointment and pouring it over those same pupils who had mocked her. The last scene is of them all in the school canteen laughing together. Another commercial in the series is of a car crash, someone has jumped a red light but in the middle of the ensuing argument out comes this bottle and it is poured over both parties and the final scene is them laughing together. Just like in the Ronseal advertisements the man pushes the bottle towards the camera and you read 'Forgiveness' and he says 'it does exactly as it says on the label.' Now let me ask you: If you were the manufacturer of that bottle of 'forgiveness' what would you charge for it? Would the cost go up or down depending on the hurt caused? Would the time between the hurt and the purchase affect the price? What would you pay for a bottle of forgiveness?

If you were the hurt party would you pour the contents of that bottle over yourself or over the offender? As the wronged individual would you feel cheated knowing someone could pour the contents of that bottle over you and you would have no choice but to forgive?

If you were the person who had wronged someone would you pour the contents of that bottle over yourself or over them? Would you feel relieved that you could wander down the high street and purchase a bottle of forgiveness to heal the wrong?

I am sorry to tell you I know of no such product on the market. I know of no product that you can pour over someone and forgiveness springs

forth. But this I do know – where forgiveness is found and how it can be poured into your life and mine this very morning.

Turn with me to 2 Samuel 16, and put your thumb in 2 *Samuel* 19 as well. Let me set the context of what we are about to read. This is probably the lowest ebb David has ever found himself in life. His son Absalom has rebelled (2 *Samuel* 15) and taken over the kingdom. David is on the run (2 *Samuel* 15.13) with a band of loyal followers. As Absalom enters Jerusalem David is fleeing out the other side. He heads out via the Mount of Olives and as he does he encounters *Shimei* (2 *Samuel* 16.5). We are not told very much about this man Shimei, other than he belonged to the clan of Saul. At this moment in time he comes across as a very unsavoury character to say the least. David is fleeing for his life and Shimei sees his opportunity to add insult to injury. Look at what he does – *verses* 5-8. He begins to curse David and to hurl all sorts of insults and accusations against David. At this moment I want you to know that some of what Shimei says is true and some of it is false. David was a man with bloodshed on his hands – some of it of innocent men like Uriah, some of it of enemies like Goliath. That much is true but what is false is that Shimei accuses him of having the blood of the house of Saul on his hands. That is not true. After Samuel had anointed David king and Saul had tried to kill David, and he was on the run, David had many opportunities to kill Saul but never lifted his sword against him because he (Saul) was anointed of God. On one occasion David when David was hiding in a cave Saul entered to relieve himself and David's men urged him to strike Saul down, but David refused, all he did was cut off a piece of his tunic and even that he bitterly regretted. So some of the accusations of Shimei are false, they have basis of truth, and they are unwarranted. But along comes another character into the situation – *verse* 9, enter *Abishai*. Now here is the loyal servant of David and look at what he suggests as to how to deal with Shimei. He basically says '*David, this man is worth nothing. I would cut his head off just as I would a dead dogs.*' Abishai could not have spoken more derisively about Shimei than to call him a 'dead dog.' Dogs were despised by Hebrews – in fact one of

their prayers had them thanking God he had not created them as a dog. Abishai wants David to do to Shimei what he had done to Goliath after Goliath had insulted him – kill him and cut his head off. But here comes the first, and essential, lesson in forgiveness – *read verses 10-12*.

Verses 10-12 David got a vertical perspective before he got a horizontal perspective. David begins by distancing himself from the anger of Abishai. Abishai wanted to strike now. He wanted to return the insults with interest. This man has cursed you, hurled insults and lies at you, he has hurt you physically as well (threw stones) – get your blow in first. Let him know who he is dealing with. Kill him David or at least let me sort it for you. Sound familiar? When you get hurt by someone there will always be people advising you how to get even. There will always be people telling you how to do it, what to do and to do it now. There will even be some who will be willing to do it for you. They will gloss it up as doing you a favour, being your friend. But look at how David reacts. David gets the divine perspective on all of this first. David turned and looked for the goodness of God before he looked at the hurt from Shimei. Did you catch that? David looked for the hand of God's goodness in this before he turned his eyes, his ears, his mind and his heart to the pain of the words and the pain of Shimei's stones. There is the first lesson of forgiveness. Where is God in all of this? That is exactly what David asked. That is what he says in these verses.

He looks at his past life. He knows his own sinfulness before God and he knows God's goodness towards him and putting the two of them together he understands that this is a means of God's discipline in his life. There is no self-justification. There is no self-righteous anger. There is no seeking vengeance. There is no striking out and inflicting pain on his accuser. David says in *verse 12* – if this is of the Lord then in my distress the Lord will bring good. If this is of the Lord then who am I to react against it or to kill the one he has sent to be the means of my discipline. Friends there is an important lesson there too – we all need to have eyes and ears that are open for the Lord's disciplining in our lives –

it may come, as here, in the form of an insult and pain – but we are not to despise. David didn't.

Turn now with me to *2 Samuel 19*. Absalom has been murdered and David is returning as king to Jerusalem. Once again we encounter Shimei – but in changed and different circumstances. Look at *verses 16-20*. When Shimei hears David is returning we read that he hurries, he is in a rush to meet David. Shimei falls prostrate before David and listen to his words – *read 19-20*. Shimei confesses his sin. In fact he echoes the very words of David 'I have sinned.' I want you to note that because it is of importance. Shimei does not begin by saying 'well you know circumstances were different back then etc.' Shimei makes no attempt to justify what he had done. There are no excuses falling from his lips. There are no bargaining chips being laid on the table. 'I have sinned.' Friends, some of you sitting there this morning need to learn that lesson. True repentance of sin has no conditions, no words of justification, no excuses and no self-righteousness attached. True repentance of sin says '*I have sinned.*' Some of you desperately need to here and take that on board this morning.

Verse 21 – here comes our old friend Abishai again. What advice will he give David this time? Oh, nothing has changed in Abishai's heart. His answer – kick him when he is down David. David don't you let him away with this. Now is your opportunity, the shoe is on the other foot. Teach him a lesson he will not forget. Sound familiar? Of course it does – we hear it all the time. We see it all the time and we may even have been on the receiving or giving end of it. But in *verses 22-23* we once again see a different reaction from David. Once again he rejects the advice of Abishai. Once again David has a divine perspective before he listens to human advice. Did you not the little phrase? '*Do I not know that today I am king over Israel?*' That is pregnant with meaning. David is saying 'God keeps his promises.' God had promised David he would be king as long as he lived and then the throne would pass to his son Solomon. In that phrase David is saying God keeps his promises, why should anyone die – God has been faithful to me today. His insults were brought about

by my own sinfulness with Bathsheba – they were part of the consequences of my sin. They were the means of the Lord God humbling me and ensuring I learned the lesson of my sin.

Application.

So what do we learn from this moment in the life of David? Well I want to take a few more minutes to outline some things in relation to forgiveness.

First, I want us all to note that David sought God's perspective on each situation before he listened to any human advice. Each occasion that he encountered Shimei he listened for God before he listened to Abishai. Learn that lesson – when insults, injuries and pain comes – seek God's voice before you listen to human advice.

Secondly, David was well aware of his own sinfulness and contribution to the situation. David knew he was not an innocent man before God or anyone else. He knew his own sins and failures and therefore had a better understanding of the sins and failures of Shimei. You see the humbled, forgiven David was in a better position to forgive than the self-righteous Abishai. If you have never been humbled by God, forgiven by God I doubt you will be able to forgive others. When you are aware at the depth of your own sin, and the cost of forgiveness for you personally, then you will be in the right position to forgive others. David knew the heartache, the pain, the destruction that his own sin had brought. David knew the cost of his forgiveness – the life of an innocent. Knowing that he was a merciful man.

Thirdly, there will always be an Abishai about when you get hurt. Abishai will be on your shoulder in a flash telling you how to get even, how to strike back and how to hurt the other person. Abishai is not of God – so why would you listen. Abishai harbours self-righteous anger and he never lets it go, as we have seen. Abishai awaits his opportunity to get even. David – he waited his opportunity to forgive.

There is a strange twist to this story. Read *1 Kings 2.8-9*. You know friends there is a very important lesson in those two verses for us

all. Forgiveness, for us as people, is not an instant act but a process. David had forgiven Shimei but he never forgot. He never left it behind and at the end of his life he passed the hurt on to his son Solomon. He kept his promise that he would not kill Shimei but he passed on his hurt to the next generation to deal with. Do we not know that in this land of ours? Friends when you forgive remember it is the start of the process – you must go on forgiving. When you ring a heavy bell it tolls out a resounding sound. So long as you keep pulling on the rope it will toll. When you let go of the rope the bell will continue, because of its weight, to toll but gradually it gets quieter and quiet and eventually it goes silent. That is like the pain of forgiveness – you must let go of the rope but the pain will take time to go quiet. But just like the bell, one tug of the rope will have the bell tolling again, one tug of the rope of pain and your bell will toll and you have to quieten it down again by getting the hands off the rope.

Forgiveness is a decision and it is a journey for us as people. The truth this morning – you can only forgive when you know you have been forgiven. David could only forgive Shimei because he knew forgiveness from God.

So the application is simple – forgive – make the decision, start the process.

yours in Christ
Rev Dr Alan McCann

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

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 |
| 7.00pm-7.30pm | - Prayer Time - Kerr Room |
| 7.30pm-8.30pm | - Bible Study |

Everyone will be very welcome.

God bless

Rev Dr Alan McCann

Holiday Bible Club

This years' dates for HBC are 21st - 25th July. I am appealing for people to come forward and join our team...we cannot operate without you. There are a variety of roles you can take on - from serving refreshments to leading at the front. Or you can just be a spare pair of hands to support the children in their various activities. I'm looking forward to seeing past members returning...but I would also love to welcome new members.

Think about it and pray about it.

Also, if you have any children/ grandchildren/ neighbours who would be eligible to attend please pass on an invitation. Even in doing this you are playing an important part. And a role you can all partake in is to pray for

God's blessing and protection on this outreach to children.

God bless.

Yvonne Best

Fellowship Café at Holy Trinity



**Every Thursday
10.30am – 12.30pm**

May turned out to be a very busy month....we must be doing something right!!

It was encouraging to welcome some new visitors.

“We saw the banners outside and decided to call in”. We’re so glad they did. That’s partly how we have built up a great group of regular visitors. It is a daunting task for anyone, outside of our congregation, to walk through the church doors not knowing what to expect. We guarantee everyone a warm and friendly welcome. So, if you’ve never visited us please call in. That same welcome awaits you. There are just four more opportunities to call in before our closure at the end of June for the summer break. If you enjoy the craic and the chat, we can accommodate you. If you prefer peace and quiet to read or just relax, we can accommodate you as well in our quiet area.

If it is in God’s plan, we will re-open on Thursday September 4th.

You can keep up to date by following us on facebook at:

“Holy Trinity Fellowship Café”

Yours in Christ’s service,

Anne & Maurice Langley

God is good † all the time

Craic and Craft

Every First and Third Thursday from 7pm to 9pm.

A busy couple of meetings during May at which we learned the art of decoupage, continued with our own crafting projects, chatted and drank tea!!

We look forward to welcoming all ladies and their friends on Thursday June 5th and 19th.

After this, we will be taking a break over the summer months.

God willing, we will return on Thursday Sept 4th.

For further details please speak to
Hazel, Anne or Donna

Trinity Tots - Toddlers Group



Hello everyone, haven't we been blessed with super sunny weather over the past few weeks? Our toddlers and carers have enjoyed playing, singing and craft activities with us each Thursday morning and our new bubble machine has been a big hit.

We will finish for the summer on Thursday 19th June with a Teddy bear sports day so remember to bring teddy- or any cuddly toy you prefer - to join in the fun and games. 10.00 - 11.30 am.

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

Scrap to Money to 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.

Creche Rota - June 2025

		
1 st June	Lauren Baird	Fiona Moody
8 th June	Lorraine Ross	Helen Fittis
15 th June	Maureen Lunn	Joanne Hunter
22 nd June	NO CRECHE FAMILY SERVICE	
29 th June	Carolynne Lafferty	Gemma Fittis

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.

C.M.S Ireland Used Postage Stamps



Holidays may be approaching but please continue to save your used postage stamps (including a small envelope border) and pop them into our stamp box on the church table.

The proceeds of the sale of these stamps help towards funding Christian projects in Africa .

Yvonne Best

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	
5	Wenda Gray	Sue Majury	Eva Dunn
6	Kel McDermott	Drew Buchanan	Karen Buchanan
7	Lorraine Ross	Maureen Lunn	Adrienne Tasker

Team	Dates	
1		
2	25 th May	
3	1 st June	
4	8 th June	
5	15 th June	
6	22 nd June	
7	29 th June	

Karen Buchanan

Hon Secretary

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.

Welcome Team Rota

Teams	Dates	
Jack Blair Hazel Blair		22 nd June
Karen Buchanan Jenny Wightman		29 th June
Liz Adair Janis Gibson		6 th July
Maureen Lunn Adrienne Tasker		13 th July
Eva Dunn Eleanor Steele		20 th July
Sharon McNeill Alison Moffett		27 th July
Kel McDermott Maurice Langley		3 rd Aug
Libby Todd Marjory Edgar		10 th Aug
Ann Calvert Lorraine Hagan		17 th Aug
Yvonne Best Jennifer Hamilton		24 th Aug
Joanne Hunter Laura Kerr	25 th May	31 st Aug
Arlene Macartney Wenda Gray	1 st Jun	7 th Sept
Donna Harrison Sue Majury	8 th Jun	14 th Sept
Elaine Wright Joan Cummings	15 th Jun	21 st Sept

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 Hambleton	
Peter Moffett		Maurice Langley		

Team	Dates			
1		1 st Jun	7 th Sept	5 th Oct
2		8 th Jun	14 th Sept	12 th Oct
3		15 th Jun	21 st Sept	19 th Oct
4	25 th May	22 nd Jun	28 th Sept	26 th Oct
5		29 th Jun		



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

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.

Sunday Services

Date	Reading Number	Reader	Title & Prayer Leader	Book	Chapter & Verses
1st June 2025	1st Reading	Colin McIlwaine	Holy Communion	Acts	Chapter 16 verses 16 - 34
	2nd Reading	Rev Dr Alan McCann	Prayers Kel McDermott	John	Chapter 17 verses 20 - 26
8th June 2025	1st Reading	Jenna Macartney	Pentecost Sunday	Acts	Chapter 2 verses 1 - 10
	2nd Reading	Hannah Hulme	Prayers Rev Dr Alan McCann	Acts	Chapter 2 verses 11 - 21
15th June 2025	1st Reading	David Sprott	Morning Prayer	Psalms	Psalms 8
	2nd Reading	Lorraine Ross	Prayers Yvonne Best	John	Chapter 16 verses 12 - 15
22nd June 2025	_____	_____	Family Service	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
29th June 2025	1st Reading	Avril Waller	Service of the Word	Acts	Chapter 12 verses 1 - 11
	2nd Reading	Gail Doherty	Prayers Daniel Lafferty	Matthew	Chapter 16 verses 13 - 19

Colin McIlwaine