

TRINITY NEWSLETTER

To Glorify God and Enjoy Him for ever
EASTER 2020



And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Easter is central to the gospel. It is the time of year when we remember the triumph of Jesus over sin, death and Hell. On Good Friday we remember the blood shed for us so that we might go free. On Easter Sunday we remember the glory of the empty tomb. Yet this Easter is like no other. Never before have God's people not gathered on Easter Sunday. For centuries the Church has gathered on Sunday morning to announce to a sleeping world that Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!" Though we may be apart from one another and locked inside our homes let's not forget that Jesus was not locked inside the tomb, nor was he locked in death; instead, he burst forth in glory to set us free!

I wanted to take a brief moment to write to you at Easter to encourage you to remember the words written at the top of this letter.

Faith

In these dark and difficult days we can be tempted to spend all of our time focused on the news or various social media. We can be tempted to fall into despair as we watch bustling cities become eerily silent or when we see our leaders hospitalised due to this virus. We can also be tempted to doubt that God is present or that He cares about what is going on in our world. The Bible says something completely different. We are reminded that we are not on our own. We are reminded that our God sits on the throne. We are reminded that he works every evil out for good. Many are already writing about how we can understand this. I'd encourage you to look to John Piper's book online called *Coronavirus and Christ* which is available from www.desiringgod.org and also as an audio book.

Hope

Easter is about hope. The Apostle Peter tells us that we have been born into a living hope, a hope in Jesus and in his resurrection. Hope is not foolish and is never shameful. Peter encouraged his readers during the darkest and toughest moments of persecution that the early church suffered, and his words still ring true today. We can hold fast to the truth that in the depth and darkness of Good Friday God does His best work. He rescues us and redeems us. No matter how dark the world may look we have a God who is wrapped in unapproachable light and when we put our hope in Him, He will not abandon us.

Love

1 Corinthians 13 reminds us of what love looks like. It is stripped away from romantic sentimentality and is shown to be the most important. Why do we love? Because He first loved us and gave himself up for us. The Church of Jesus is meant to be a community of faithful love inside and outside church walls. I want to encourage you all to continue loving each other: by phone calls, letters, chats through the window or across fields, providing for each other's needs and, most importantly, by praying for each other. We have a very simple (yet difficult) command to follow: "Love one another". May we do so now more than ever.

Your Pastor
Richard

If you have any need for help at the moment or would just like to chat with someone please contact Richard at the Manse and he will help you with this.

We may not be able to be physically close just now, but we can still care for each other. The Manse tel no is 02892638271 or Richard's mobile is 07548587797

At the end of last year and continuing into the early part of 2020 we ran a series of blogs on the website for our mission outreach members that we support from Trinity. Whilst all of us are now facing uncertainty and changes to our daily routines, many people like our mission families have chosen a life that brings unknown hurdles each and every day. Prayer, faith, and support gets them through, and should be what we all rely on during these strange times.

Later in the year we hope to reproduce those blogs in our Connections magazine for anyone that missed them on the website or social media platforms, but we still remember and uphold them in prayer at this time. Financially too, they still need our support so please think about this as well – more details are given below on how we can do this.



Andrew and Anna – Sports Academy George

Leaving the familiar surroundings of Northern Ireland in Jan 2020, Andrew and Anna flew to South Africa to take up work with Sports Academy George. Not all new for Andrew who has worked with the Academy since 2017, this was a step of faith for them both as a married couple.

Pray for Andrew and Anna's safety during the lockdown period that they will stay safe and know that family and friends back home still hold them close in their hearts. Remember also the pupils, their families and communities living in townships where social distancing and safe hygiene are immense challenges.



Angie – CEF

Angie works for Child Evangelism Fellowship and has done for many more years than she maybe wants us to mention! The last 17 years have been as full-time staff, and there were 19 years as a volunteer before that. In 2002 she became a full-time youth worker in CEF of Ireland and in 2012 was appointed to her current post as lead to the Education Department.

Whilst face to face ministries have had to stop Angie continues to be busy with online training, prayer meetings and working on getting resources online for families to download and use whilst at home.

Louise - Blue Houses (Youth for Christ)

Working at the centre approximately 3 years now Louise helps with a variety of programmes which include community relations work, a drop-in for children, teenagers & young adults, one-to-one mentoring and schools work.



During the lockdown please remember family relationships for the young people, pray that they know they continue to be loved and uplifted by the staff at BH. Many will be anxious about their future as exams can't take place. Also remember the others working with Louise, that all may stay safe and that Louise will manage any feelings of disconnection from her team at this time.

Godshandiwork Puppets

Sam and Silvana were looking forward to what was to be their busiest month of the year so far with shows but is now turning out to be their busiest month of the year, so far, in a totally different way.

When isolation became the name of the game Sam thought of trying to put some videos online. What started as a video or two online has turned into a Bible story a day Monday to Friday, at midday, during the week to another extra few things getting a few evenings a week, including fire Fridays, a Bible story live with fire of some kind. So far fire sword for creation, and serious fire torches with Gideon.

Pray for Sam and Silvana for wisdom and discernment on the stories to be recorded and for the Holy Spirit to really use this material. Also pray for guidance for them to manage their time well, balancing family life and getting the stories done each day, and that they continue to be provided for with any bits of kit or equipment that they need for this work.



At this time Phil and Rachel find a lot of their ministries have moved to online, but are encouraged by some new opportunities opening up such as working to encourage parents to take responsibility for family devotion times. Pray for them as they juggle time and space to prepare the materials needed, and to care for their young family. Pray for comfort for Rachel as she misses the chance to have come home to visit her family at Easter.

The present situation with regard to Coronavirus and the cancellation of all Sunday Services will certainly put a great strain on our finances as the only income at present is from members who pay by Direct Debit every month.

Setting up a Direct Debit is easy. If you are able to be out and can call into your bank, they will set it up for you. If not, then it can be set up online if you have access to Internet Banking. Perhaps family members will be able to help. You will need the church's Bank Sort Code and Account No. You can contact us by email treasurer@trinityboardmills.org or contact Richard at the Manse for details.

Now is a good time for more members to think again about paying to church funds in this way. The work needs to go on and to be supported and never more so than right now. We may not be using our church buildings at the present time, but the work goes on further afield than Boardmills. Those from our congregation involved in full-time mission work have still to be supported together with support for the work of the church worldwide. Even if paying by Direct Debit is not for you, you can still fill an envelope each week and put them in whenever you can.

*'Upon the first day of the week let every one of you
Lay by him in store as God hath prospered him'*

1 Cor 16:2

Since our last full magazine, we have shared in the grief of some of our families who have been bereaved. Remember the loved ones and friends of Mrs. Kathleen Stevenson, Mr. Victor Gibson, Mrs. Margaret Lyttle, Mr. Fred Mitchell and Mr. Martin McKee.

We have had, and continue to have, many reasons to celebrate and count our blessings. Hearing of new little ones coming into our midst is just such an occasion.

Last October 15th the Pattons introduced us to Rebekah, little sister for Sophie and on 24th March Miss Emily Purse made her appearance.

Also, in February Andrew & Suzy Patterson were delighted to announce the birth of Millie. They are so pleased to have a little sister for Tommy and also so appreciate the prayers of many in our church family as Millie faces into surgery in the coming weeks and months. Would you pray that she will be kept free from further infection and gain strength for the journey ahead, and for the family as they attend to her needs.

In addition, David John Patterson celebrated his 100th birthday on the last weekend of February. Many family and friends joined him at his birthday party at his home in Carryduff on Saturday followed by more tea and cake with his church family on Sunday evening. He received many cards but the biggest one was the special one made by Becky and signed by members of the congregation - very much appreciated.



If you have access to the internet don't forget we are trying as much as possible to stay connected – check our Facebook page for updates and tune in for our Sunday Services and Midweek broadcasts.

Whilst this may be the strangest Easter ever with God's people unable to gather to worship together remember God has not forsaken us.

~ Be still, and know that I am God~

