

CONNECTING WITH AND SHARING **GOD'S LOVE** IN OUR COMMUNITY

CONNECT

ISSUE 1 - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019

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HOLY TRINITY
GLENCRAIG



Greetings in the name of Christ...

During the past few months I've been thinking a lot about growth. I am definitely not a gardener, but have been learning some gardening skills since moving to Glencraig: I've been learning to nurse the pot plants I received as house-warming presents; and the grass at front of the Vicarage needed care when I arrived.

Gardeners encourage growth by watering and feeding, by the attention and care they give to what they are growing. Around the Vicarage there are a number of plants in pots, which will always be limited in their growth. Plants in pots are bound, contained, and cannot expand beyond the pot boundary. When things aren't growing and developing as we expect they should, we need to ask why - what is preventing normal and natural growth?

In these months of September and October we see apple trees ripe for harvest, blackberry bushes ready to be picked, strawberry plants ready to be picked, and tomatoes ripe to be eaten. Why do gardeners sow/plant lettuce, carrots, cabbage, potatoes? Why do farmers sow fields of barley and wheat, fields of potatoes, carrots and cabbages? The farmer and market gardeners plant because they are expecting growth and development, and crops that will be ready to harvest.

As I start my ministry amongst you, I have been pondering Psalm 1:1-3:

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season.

God is looking for and longing for spiritual growth, spiritual development and a spiritual harvest in our lives. He calls us not to be a church which is pot bound, contained and restricted; but to be a church which seeks to make Christ known in our own lives, and in the lives of the community in which we are at the heart of.

In order for spiritual growth, spiritual development and a spiritual harvest to occur in our lives and in our church life we need to first be planted in good soil. The first step in our spiritual journey is that we each experience a spiritual birth through trusting in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. After being planted, rooted and grounded, we need to be spiritually fed and watered in order to grow. So to grow and develop spiritually, we read the Bible and apply God's word to our lives; we respond to the Holy Spirit, as we ask Him to guide us and help us as we develop spiritually individually and as a church family.

In this new season in Glencraig, let's seek to be people who are planted by streams of living water, soaking in God's word; praying for the mission and ministry of this local church, for the new initiatives and services; and praying that we would grow more like Jesus, as we seek to follow Him and live for Him in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Catherine

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Bowling Club...

This year Glenraig Parish Indoor Bowling Club celebrates its 50th anniversary. Quite an achievement!

Bowling takes place in the Church Hall apart from a couple of seasons in the past while our present hall was being built. We bowl on a Monday evening, commencing at 7.30pm and finishing around 10.00pm - with a break in the evening for a cup of tea.

The indoor bowling season starts mid-September and continues until Easter: we take a break over the summer months.

The new season for us will start on Monday 16th September 2019.

New members are always welcome: it is always a good night's craic! The club is open to all, and no experience is necessary - we can even offer tuition. Bowls can be borrowed, and we do ask that flat shoes are worn. If you would like any further information please speak to bowlers, Tony Gregg or David McIlhagger. We look forward to seeing some new faces on a Monday evening at 7.30pm.

Tony

Tots & Co

I hope you all have had a brilliant summer and are ready for the new season.

Our Parent and Toddler group will be re-starting on Wednesday 11th September in the Church Hall from 10.00 - 11.30am and we would love to see you there. Please come along and invite others to come too. We hope to have a themed Party on the 23rd of October

**Tots & Co
Glenraig**

(theme to be decided), and we restart after our half term break on the 6th of November.

For more information contact the Parish Office, office@holytrinityglenraig.org or contact Heather 028 9042 4475.

Hospital visits...

We can no longer be certain that hospitals will provide us with notification of parishioners who have been admitted. If you or any parishioner

you may know is in hospital, please let us know by telephoning the Vicarage 9042 1691 or emailing catherine@holytrinityglenraig.org



Ladies Guild...

Question: What do the following have in common... a school in Uganda, handmade silver jewellery and the importance of bees?

These, and many more, have all been topics covered by speakers at Glenraig Ladies Guild. Glenraig Ladies Guild has been a part of parish life and the Seahill community for over 50 years. It has evolved and grown in those years to make it more current and relevant to the world in which we live.

We meet once a month on a Tuesday evening in the parish hall. *Why don't you come along and join us?* Our opening Service is the 24th of September at 7.30pm. Our next meeting is the 15th October the title is "Crowning Glory....a history of Tiaras". We feel it is important to also reflect in our programme some of the

more serious and current issues that affect aspects of today's society. Speakers from organisations such as the Samaritans and the Alzheimer's Society, to lesser known charities such as Mission Aviation and the Mercy Ship, have all been invited to come along and tell us about their work. In this year's programme we have invited a representative from Holywood Street Pastors and also a representative from the International Justice Mission to speak about modern day slavery.

As one of our newest members said "I had no idea I would enjoy something like this. I thought that it might be very boring and stuffy but it is just the opposite - it's fun and I'm learning about new things at every meeting."

Margaret

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:18 NIV

In this new season there are new opportunities for all of us to be part of. You're invited to come, to invite others, and to pray for all the activities of this local church.

We are a local church planted in the community on Seahill for over 150 years, during which time there has been seasons for new things. Although the bowling club is celebrating its 50th year, and Tots & Co has been going for over 20 years, they were all new at one point!

With that in mind, we are trying a few new initiatives: on the 15th of September we are

launching a new service for everyone in the community of Seahill. **Six Thirty** (since we will start at 6:30pm) will be in the church hall on Sundays. This service will be Café Church: an informal time of worship, teaching, and ministry - and there'll be tea/coffee and treats. We would love you to give it a try.

Another new initiative is the kids' club, **Glenraig Explorers**, which starts on the 1st of October at 6.30pm, and is for all boys and girls in the area from P1 - P7.



**Glencraig
explorers
KIDS' CLUB**

A weekly kids' club designed to help children find out more about God, while having a lot of fun along the way.

Each week we have crafts, games, songs, quizzes and more - all to help us find out more about the amazing God who loves us. For Primary School-aged (P1-P7) children, Glencraig Explorers runs during October & November, starting on the 1st of October.

**SIXTHIRTY
CAFÉ CHURCH**

Café church is designed as a place to make connections with God and one another.

Six Thirty is an informal expression of church. Through it we aim to create a warm atmosphere for people of all backgrounds. You are welcome from 6.15pm with tea, coffee and treats, with praise from 6.30pm, including a short talk.

What does a typical service look like?

- Arrival and coffee/tea*
- Background music*
- Welcome and announcements*
- Praise, Talk & Prayer*

Six Thirty is for everyone!

Starts on 15th September!

Parish Lunch for the community...

The Parish lunches will recommence on Tuesday 3rd of September at 12.30pm for 1.00pm. We look forward to welcoming everyone back again, and if you haven't been yet, then there's an open invitation to come and join us. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month in the Church Hall.

Together we enjoy a two-course lunch, followed by tea and coffee and the opportunity

to get to know others who you might not know - or catch up with old friends you see each regularly. We promise you a warm welcome, good food and great company. We suggest a minimum donation of £6. Please sign up in church or email office@holytrinityglencraig.org. See you on the 3rd of September at 12.30pm for 1pm.

Elaine



Calendar - September / October...

1st September

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion
	11:00am	Morning Worship
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer

5th September

Thursday Praying Together - Church 7.30pm

8th September

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9:00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Prayer

15th September

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9:00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Church Hall	6.30pm	SIX THIRTY Café Church

22nd September

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9:00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Church Hall	6.30pm	SIX THIRTY Café Church

29th September

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Holy Communion
Church Hall	6.30pm	SIX THIRTY Café Church

3rd October

Thursday Praying Together - Church 7.30pm

6th October

Harvest Thanksgiving Services

Holy Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion
	11:00am	Harvest
	6.30pm	Harvest

13th October

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Church Hall	6.30pm	SIX THIRTY Café Church

20th October

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Church Hall	6.30pm	SIX THIRTY Café Church

27th October

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Holy Communion
Church Hall	6.30pm	SIX THIRTY Café Church

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Genesis 8:22



North Down Storehouse...

We as a Parish have been supporting the North Down Foodstore for three years. It was set up by a group of local churches and provides a Food Bank for those in need in the Bangor - Holywood area.

It is not intended to provide long-term support for individual families but responds when people find themselves with no money to buy food following a crisis of some kind. This may

be because they have lost their job, or family relationships have broken down, or because of illness including mental illness.

The North Down Storehouse normally supports around 30 families each week and is finding difficulty meeting demand. Contributions to the community Foodstore of non-perishable food stuffs can be left in the boxes in Church. Thank you to all who contribute to the Foodbank.

Vestry Report...

Holy Trinity Church - It was agreed at the July Vestry meeting that the sound system in the church should be upgraded. It was also agreed to tarmac the area in front of the church.

Holy Trinity Church Hall - The Select Vestry agreed to proceed with the provision of visual and audio equipment for the Church Hall.

Data Protection - The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became effective on 25th May 2018. We have been working through these protocols: as such everyone will be invited to update and edit their data.

Parish Finances - The Select Vestry agreed to sell a site at the back of the Vicarage. This sale has gone through, and the parish loan has been paid off. Our thanks to all who contributed to the provision of funds to make the building of the Vicarage possible.

The Select Vestry wish to express their gratitude on behalf of the Parish for the bequest they received from the Estate of the

Late Miss Ann Miller. The loan repayment and the bequest have meant we have been in a position to tarmac around the church.

An upgrade to our existing sound equipment is in hand.

Thank you to all who contribute to Parish Funds through Weekly Offering Envelopes or Standing Orders. We encourage all parishioners to support the ministry and mission of the Church; and as we enter this new season, starting various activities to encourage growth in our faith and growth in the church family, please continue in your generous support.

If you would like to set up a Standing Order or request Weekly Offering Envelopes, please speak to a church warden, to the Treasurer Tony Gregg, or contact the office on office@holytrinityglenraig.org

Parish Administrator - the Select Vestry agreed to appoint the post of part-time Parish Administrator.



Alpha @ Seahill...

**Wednesdays | 7.30 - 9.00pm | Holy Trinity Church Hall, GlenCraig Introductory Evening
Wednesday 25th September | 7.30pm**

We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith and ask questions. If you want to ask questions about life and faith, then try Alpha - it's open to everyone! Each evening, we begin with tea, coffee, and conversation, followed by a video/

talk exploring a different topic, and finishing with the opportunity for discussion or questions.

Alpha starts on **Wednesday 25th September at 7.30pm**. It runs for 8 weeks, and is a relaxed and informal space to explore the basics of Christian faith and the difference faith makes for our lives. We'd love to see you there - why not invite others to come too?

Praying Together...

**PRAYING
TOGETHER †**

**Thursday 5th September and the 3rd October
7:30 - 8:30pm | Holy Trinity Church**

Paul, in his letter to the Colossian Christians, encourages them to devote themselves to prayer, to being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2). Let's be people who devote ourselves to prayer. Join us at our monthly

prayer event in this new season, as we come together to pray for the ministry and mission of the Church, and for the community in which we live and work.

People are welcome to arrive late and leave early, so please do join us as you are able during the hour.

Bishop Harold's Farewell...

Bishop Harold is retiring at the end of September. The Diocese are planning to say thank you and farewell to Bishop Harold and his wife Liz on 19th September in Down Cathedral.

At this event, they will be presented with a retirement gift from the parishes and people

of Down and Dromore to bless them and thank them for their many years of service. Parishioners from each parish are being invited to contribute to this retirement gift. Please use the envelopes in the church and return to Church by Sunday 8th September.

Catherine wishes to express her sincere thanks for your warm welcome to the parish, and for all those who have sent cards and gifts. Your kindness has been very much appreciated. Thank you!