

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

CONNECT

AUTUMN 2022

*You're
Invited*

INVITE OTHERS



HOLY TRINITY
GLENCRAIG



Greetings in the name of Christ

This summer I was invited to three weddings. One of the weddings I was unable to attend as I was out of the country on holiday, as I saw posts on Facebook I was reminded of that acronym, FOMO – Fear Of Missing Out. It is wonderful when you're invited by family or friends to various events, whether it's a meal, a wedding, a birthday party, or an event just for fun! You feel like you're a part of something, you feel included. However, there are times when we aren't invited, when we feel excluded and left out, and that can be upsetting and hurtful.

Sometimes even when we are invited to events, we can miss out, we forget to reply, or the invitation gets lost in a pile of correspondence. Sometimes we suffer from FOMO, Fear Of Missing Out, but at other times we miss out because we say 'no', or because we ignore the invitation or put off replying until it's too late.

In the Bible, Jesus told a story about a man who invited guests to his party, but the people who were invited made excuses - they had better things to do!

Jesus replied: A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, *'Come, for everything is now ready. But they all alike began to make excuses.'* *The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'* *Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'* *Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'*

Luke 14:16-20

When those who had been invited didn't come, other people were invited and they came to the party - they didn't miss out. God invites all people to live for Him, we are all invited to be part of His family.

How have we responded to that invitation? Don't miss out by 'ignoring the invitation, or by putting off making a choice, or by saying 'no'.

God invites each of us into a relationship with him through faith in Jesus, and he encourages each of us to grow and develop in our faith, to become more like Jesus, and to live out our faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We should live out our faith intentionally choosing to live for God in the choices and decisions we make.

Don't miss out on God's best for you. **You're Invited!**

This magazine includes invitations, to Hope Explored, 12 hours of Prayer, the Alpha Course, Café Church, Bowls, Tots&CO, to join us as we meet to worship God on Sundays. Our Harvest week will involve opportunities to invite people to come along and see the Knitted Bible Exhibition, be part of the Prayer Garden, to Stop&Chat!

You're invited, don't miss out! & invite others, so they don't miss out!

Catherine



Services

In this new phase in History as we seek to be faithful to God we move to two service from the 25th September.

10.00am Traditional Morning Prayer (Holy Communion last Sunday of a month)

11.30am Morning Worship (in the hall) with Children's ministry available (HTG Kids) In Holy Trinity children come to Church with their parents and leave partway through the 11.30am service for Jigsaw (our Sunday School). We really want to be welcoming to people in every age and phase of life.

During 11.30am Morning Worship Service, children will come to the service with their parents and leave part way through for their own age appropriate learning.

Bowling

Bowling takes place in the Church Hall 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 26th September 2022.

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, 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 among old friends on a Monday evening at 7.30pm.



Craft Zone

Thursday 29th September at 7.30pm

A gathering of people who like crafting come along to our September meet as we make an Autumn display. This time is just an opportunity to make something together and gather in community together. Speak to Kerry or Charlene.



Tots & Co Glenraig



Tots & Co began again in Spring 22 and we were delighted to welcome children back into our hall and hear the buzz of their chat and play. It has been uplifting for the team of volunteers to see the group grow and get to know the parents, grandparents and carers as we enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

Mornings are informal and the children can choose between the different play areas and enjoy painting, play-doh and crafts. Child friendly snacks and fruit are available throughout the morning as well as tea, coffee and a sweet treat for the adults.

We meet on Wednesdays between 10:30am and 12:00pm and welcome all children not yet attending a formal school setting. Commencing again on September 21st we look forward to seeing the 'Knitted Bible' in October with

Harvest activities and Christmas crafts planned throughout the term.

Please pray for the team as we plan and organise activities and create a safe and welcoming space for both children and adults, pray for guidance in our conversations as we find opportunities to share our faith.

If you would like to help with Tots&Co we would be delighted to have you join our friendly team, be it as a regular or occasional helper, please speak to me. (All our leaders have been AccessNI approved and comply with the Church of Ireland Safeguarding.)

Please contact Christine or Kerry for further information

christinebeale@hotmail.com

kerry@holyltrinityglenraig.org

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@holyltrinityglenraig.org

Ladies Guild

It is time to meet again - Morning Coffee at the church hall, Tuesday 27th September 11am



PRAYING TOGETHER †

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 the start of this new season to pray for the mission and ministry of this local church 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.

A prayer space will be set up in the church hall and there will be 12 slots available on the hour from 7.30am to 7.30pm. Come on your own, bring a few friends (all we ask is that whoever is in the building signs into the book). We suggest you lock the door when you are in the room on your own and the next person will arrive you let them in and leave. We will join as a church family at 8.30pm for a time of corporate prayer together. To sign up for a slot email Catherine or register through the link in the church email or Facebook/Website.

**A day of prayer ending with a time of prayer together
Thursday 6th October 7:30pm, Holy Trinity Church**

North Down Storehouse

As a Parish we have been supporting the North Down Storehouse for over 6 years.

It was set up by a group of local churches and provides a Food Bank for those in need in the Bangor - Hollywood area. Whilst Supermarkets now have space for food to be donated in their shops, we provide an opportunity for us as a parish to continue our support for this local charity. From September items can be dropped off every Sunday or weekday that the hall is open there will be a box to pop donations into. North Down Storehouse 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.





Select Vestry News

Annual Easter General Vestry

Our Easter General Vestry was held in April and our thanks to the outgoing Select Vestry Members and a Welcome to New Members.

In May members of the Select Vestry attended a Service of Dedication for those elected to serve in Select Vestries across our Area Deanery, member gathered alongside other church Select Vestries in St Mark's Newtownards. The Service was led by Bishop David Mc Clay. During his sermon the Bishop shared his vision for the next Ten years.

Church Hall Plans - Raise The Roof Appeal

For some time now the Select Vestry has been considering how best to deal with the leaks that are appearing in the hall, due to the deterioration of the roof. The Select Vestry sought advice and professional guidance as to how best to improve the Church Hall space. You will be aware that advice is to replace the whole roof, replace glazing and put insulation into the hall. The Select Vestry has spent some time researching how best to upgrade and improve the hall. Plans illustrating the Vision for the hall are available to view in both the Church and Hall buildings. Please take the opportunity to view these plans, please be aware that we need to raise significant funds to fix the roof before we move the rest of the vision forward. Please keep praying for this.

To date the 'Raise the roof' appeal has raised **£5925**, and following the Organ recital we have an additional **£416.25** and so we are over 10% towards the **£60,000** estimated for the roof alone. A great start!





Ukrainian Appeal

In April the Select Vestry agreed that the church would be used as a collection point for donations of aid for Ukraine.

A number of church members gathered at the church to receive the very generous amount of donations from residents of the surrounding area. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously, both from the church community and the wider community. A

special thankyou to Sarah Stout, Clarke Jordon and Michael Bell for transporting items to the central depot.

These items arrived safely in Poland through the help of Hope for Youth ministries and have both been received and distributed. The following Sunday we collected food items to support the work of Missionaries from Northern Ireland Timothy and Rhoda Sloan, these food items were driven into Ukraine and arrived at their destination – THANK YOU.



Finance Update

At this challenging time economically, for both our country and each individual person, we thank you for your generous support towards the ministry and mission of our local parish. Your continued support is much appreciated and much needed. Please prayerfully consider your giving as we move forward together as a parish in these difficult times. Please do speak to Rev Catherine if you need support or help in any way.

James Douglas - Honorary Treasurer

Community Lunch

We aim to have regular community lunches throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone who would like to come. We will share in a simple meal together followed by coffee/tea traybakes. There is an open invitation to come and join us. A suggested donation of £5 to cover costs. Date to be announced in church.



Appointment of Community Outreach Co-ordinator

Following the many challenges which the Covid Pandemic brought to all our lives and the impact it has had on all churches and our own is no exception, the Select Vestry have been exploring ways to support the Ministry and Mission of the church, aiming towards church growth as they as a Select Vestry seek ways they can support how we as a church reach out to the wider community.

In June 2022 the Select Vestry agreed to use some monies that had been given from legacies and allocated for Mission and Outreach, to use some of this money to employ a member of staff to assist Rev Catherine and all of us as we seek to reach out. After advertising and interviewing for this post we have successfully appointed Kerry Connolly as Community Outreach Co-ordinator. Kerry comes with a wealth of experience in children/youth/adult outreach ministry.



Kerry joins the parish on the 1st of September. We look forward to meeting her on Sunday the 4th of September and on Sunday the 11th September we will meet together after the service for, tea/ coffee and conversation with Kerry.

Kerry is originally from Bangor, with an honours degree in Theology: Youth Work and Ministry and is a JNC qualified youth worker. Having served in a variety of contexts in England and here in Northern Ireland, Kerry joins us from St Jude's Parish Belfast. For the past year Kerry has primarily been working with women and girls at St Jude's Belfast. She says, 'We had an action packed year, particularly our month of mission events with A Passion for Life and it was a privilege to share the Good News with Ballynafeigh in new and creative ways. I'm grateful for the support of the brilliant staff team and congregation.'

Kerry loves good coffee, true crime documentaries, swimming in the sea, beach walks, reading and has her cats Harry, Luna & Severus.

This post has been made possible due to the generosity of parishioners leaving a legacy when they died. The Select Vestry have been able to allocate money for 20 hours a week, for a part-time role for a two year period. Please join others and consider leaving the Parish a legacy.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

It was with profound sadness that I heard the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. I have only known one monarch for the whole of my life and her servant-hearted leadership and steadfast faith have been fixtures in our national life, the Commonwealth and the world, across generations. She was a remarkable leader, dedicated to serving her people. Above all, the Queen was a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. She took many opportunities, especially in her Christmas speeches, to speak of her faith and point others towards him. I hope and pray that hers will continue to be an example for Christians everywhere.

"Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour, with the power to forgive... It is my prayer that on this Christmas day we might all find room in our lives for the message of the angels and for the love of God through Christ our Lord." (Queen Elizabeth II, Christmas message, 2011)

On behalf of Glencraig Parish I offer my deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the whole Royal Family in their loss, and in particular to His Majesty King Charles III for whose reign we will continue to pray.

Special Prayers for the Royal Family will be offered each day and the church is open for services and times of prayer and reflection, until after Her Majesty's funeral, do join us and take the opportunity to sign the book of Condolence that is available to sign in the church.



Almighty God, whose son
Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace;
Grant that, as we give thanks for the life and
witness of your servant Elizabeth our Queen,
so through her example of faith and self-giving
your people may come to know the fulness of
your power and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

Monday 12th September
Evening Prayer 7:30pm

Tuesday 13th September
Church open for Private Prayer/reflection
and an opportunity to sign the book
of condolence
9:00am -11:00am

Wednesday 14th September
Holy Communion 10:30am

Thursday 15th September

Church open for Private Prayer/reflection and
an opportunity to sign the book of condolence
2:00pm - 5:00pm

Friday 16th September
Morning Prayer 10.30am

Sunday 18th September
11.00am Morning Prayer
6:00pm Service of Thanksgiving on the Eve of
the Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II



A Connect Group - October

I M M E R S E: The **Bible** Reading Experience™

Does Bible reading ever feel like a chore? Spending time in Scripture is vital for spiritual growth, yet many people struggle with confusion and boredom when they open the Bible.

Immerse removes many of the barriers which make Bible reading difficult, paving the way for deep connection with God and others through the Scriptures.

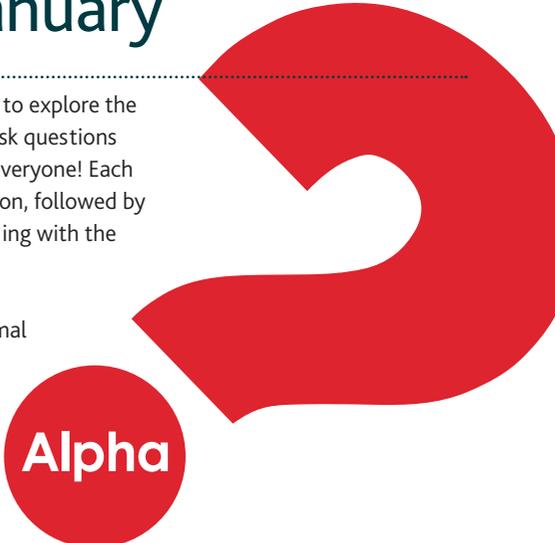
This year we will read Messiah - Immerse is intentionally uncomplicated. There are no DVD's, workbooks, or study guides. Group leaders don't have any prep work or teaching responsibility. Rather each week we meet, we ask 4 questions to help us unpack and share what we have been reading. Speak to Rev Catherine or Kerry about joining the Connect group this Autumn.



ALPHA @ Seahill Wednesdays in January

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 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 - You're invited, why not invite others to come too?



Alpha



Knitted Bible

The knitted display depicts 30 different stories from the Bible in a fun and creative way. The creator of the display is registered blind and, despite many challenges, found working on the project exciting and an opportunity to bring people together both in the creation of the display and also by taking it out to other places and inspiring others to challenge themselves and at the same time raise much needed funds for local Cancer Charities.



Despite being registered blind, Fiona felt it was important for people to have hope, to come together and to support each other through difficult experiences, such as her own mother's cancer journey. So Fiona Knitted the Bible and you are invited to come and see the Knitted Bible here in Glenraig Parish this Harvest season! It will be on display from Wednesday 12th October and our very first visitors (we hope) will be our Tots&Co.



Fiona now takes some of the stories to community groups and raises money for local cancer charities by selling some of her handmade creations, the church will be open Thursday and Friday evenings to the local community, so as people can come along and see the knitted Bible

Knitted Bible - open to the public 4 - 8pm Wednesday 12th October and Thursday 13th October 4 - 8pm.

So how can you help? We need volunteers to be willing to be at the exhibition in the church Wednesday and Thursday - Can you Help? We need volunteers each day between 4-8pm email Kerry or Catherine to volunteer to welcome people. kerry@holyltrinityglenraig.org catherine@holyltrinityglenraig.org

Invite others, come along too.



Harvest

Fruitfulness

Our Harvest services will take place on the 16th October and the preacher in the Morning will be Rt Rev Darren McCartney Rector of Clonallon & Warrenpoint, he has been rector there for just over 3 years, prior to this Darren was Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of the Arctic.

Harvest Praise service 16th October in the evening with Rev James Boyd - St. Columba's, Derryvolgie.

Morning Harvest 11.00am

Evening Harvest Praise 7.00pm

Messy Harvest

27th October 6.00 - 7.30pm for kids and their adults. Drop in anytime and enjoy fun, mess, lots of crafts and a time to be together.

