

Trinity Church Centre
Newsletter
December 2018 &
January 2019



MINISTER: Rev Jennet McLeod
19 Carlton Ave
BARROW IN FURNESS
Cumbria LA13 9AT
Tel: 01229 830844
email: revjennet@outlook.com



Our Minister writes

'Great oaks from little acorns grow.' 'Small is the seed of every greatness.' 'Great weights hang on small wires.' There are many proverbs reminding us that unpromising beginnings need not be a barrier to success. It's a theme that runs throughout the Old Testament, from Moses taking on the might of Egypt to David killing Goliath, from Elijah triumphing over the prophets of Baal, to Daniel facing up to the power of Babylon. The prophet Micah adds one more unforgettable picture to the list in the little town of Bethlehem: 'From you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, small though you may be among the clans on Judah, shall emerge one who is to rule ...'

It's hard today to appreciate how extraordinary it must have seemed to those who heard God's promised Messiah associated with this insignificant town, despite its associations with King David. Jerusalem, surely, was the only place fitting for someone of such importance? In human terms, this may have been true, but not in God's. As so often before and since, God proves to be God of the unexpected, as a tiny baby is born in that insignificant place who will turn the whole world upside down.

In God's kingdom, the first invariably find themselves last and the last first. Jesus himself would use the image of the Kingdom of God starting from the tiniest mustard seed, then shooting up and becoming the greatest of shrubs. It seems that using the apparently unpromising to change the world is God's way of working.

So what might that mean for us as we move through Advent towards Christmas? We may feel that anything we can do can never make a difference, given the immensity of the task of growing God's kingdom. But we should never assume that we are too ordinary, too inexperienced, too simple, too old, to be used by God. Remember what Jesus managed to do with an insignificant offering of two small fish and five barley loaves! And we should be alert to the fact that God can appear in our midst in places or ways we cannot anticipate.

With God, nothing is impossible. So may we take time this Advent to ask God to re-ignite our excitement and anticipation of the great things he wants to bring to birth in and through us.

Every blessing, Jennet

Christmas greetings

Merry Christmas and a Happy new year to family and friends from the people below, who have chosen to donate the money they would have spent on cards and postage to our church funds

Brian & Norma Whittaker	Jennet & Neil McLeod
Bob & Daphne Watkinson	Marian Stokes
Ed & Yvonne Farrow	Ray & Sue Millard
Margaret & Ian Lawson	Judith Smithers
Margaret Manvell	Hazel Rayner
Alan & Janet Ladds	Maureen Gill
Kay & Brian Sharp	Judith White
Audrey Jackson	Debbie, Nicole & Chloe Jackson
Helen Wilson	Christine Bird
Dinah Carott	Val Parkinson
Linda Williams	

Agape Meal - Churches Together in Barrow and Dalton

This will take place on Thursday 24th January. There will two meals this year. A daytime one at Abbey Baptist church, which will begin with a speaker at 11am, followed by the meal at noon. The evening meal will be at 6pm at St Mary's on Walney

Carols in town on December 15th



Churches Together in Barrow are again organising carol singing in town. There'll be a number of different starting points in the town centre, then everyone will come together at 1pm by the Dalton Rd statue for a great communal sing! It has been suggested that the Street Angels, and people from the URC and Methodist churches meet outside re:new charity shop in Cavendish St, and begin singing carols there. Children are welcome to join their adults.

It's a lovely thing to do, and reminds busy Christmas shoppers of the real meaning of Christmas, so please come and join in - even if it's only for a few minutes – Christmas is more than rushing around!



'Commitment for Life' - a prayer for January

Come walk with me when life is tough and burdens heavy. Come walk with me when you feel vulnerable and scared. Come walk with me when walls divide and relationships fracture. Come walk with me together we can rebuild, lighten loads and give hope. Amen

October Action card

Provided by Steve Hucklesby, Policy Advisor, Methodist Church



Church Action for Tax Justice (CAT)

Archbishop Justin Welby created a media storm following his speech to the TUC on 12 September. He appealed for social justice in our economic system and spoke out against the 'gig' economy and against Amazon's non-payment of tax in the UK. "When justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, the food banks close, the night shelters are empty, families and households are hopeful of better lives for themselves and their children, money is not a tyrant, and justice is seen." He was criticised by a few who questioned the role of the Church in commenting on economic issues.

David Haslam of the [Church Action for Tax Justice \(CAT\)](#) joined the debate with a [letter to the Guardian](#) pointing out that taxation and benefit policies often affect the poor and most vulnerable and that justice is the bedrock of Christian faith.

Tax dodging costs developing countries more than they receive in aid. In Christian Aid's excellent ["short video Where has all the money gone?"](#)

<<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/tax-justice-campaign>> we hear significant voices from the global south.

From Rev Suzanne Matale of the Council of Churches, Zambia

"Tax dodging in Zambia a serious problem. We who work on this issue link it to our poverty levels in this nation. We know that Zambia is not a poor country. We know that we have very rich minerals in the ground. We know that the investors that come to invest in our country are not paying the full value of tax that should go to Zambians."

Alvin Mosioma, Tax Justice Network - Africa

"Africa is financing the world. There is much much more money flowing out of Africa to the north through existing global architecture which enables the rich, both the elites in Africa as well as the global multinational companies, to move resources from the south to the north."

Savior Mwambwa - Centre for Trade Policy and Development, Zambia

"It's commonly known that countries that raise most of their money from tax build their own local systems of democracy, their citizens have a bigger say."

Church Action for Tax Justice was launched in the House of Lords on 17 April with the help of Rev Dr Rowan Williams and Methodist Church President Revd Michaela Youngson.

To take action Church Action for Tax Justice prayer and worship materials are available, and regular updates can be received by email



Church Christmas lunch

Sunday 2nd December - (£6.50p) at 12.30pm. Please see list in the atrium.

Messy Church

Our Christmas Messy Church is on Saturday December 8th, from 3-5pm, and the first one of 2019 is on Saturday January 12th. If our Messy Church was rated on Trip Advisor, or a was compared with other similar family activities, it would get very high marks, so if you can, find a child to bring, and come along to Messy Church



Development Fund

We've been thinking for a while about how we want to develop our building so that it meets our needs in the future. As with everything, this needs money, so we have decided to set aside 10% of the money raised at future events, and put it into a Development Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund in any way, please see Linda Williams

Flower rota

Dec 2 nd	Fund	Jan 6 th	Miss H McKinnon
Dec 9 th	Mrs J Smithers	Jan 13 th	Fund
Dec 16 th	Fund	Jan 20 th	Fund
Dec 23 rd	Fund	Jan 27 th	Fund
Dec 30 th	Fund		



Many thanks for donations received from Mrs J Smithers and Mrs M Lawton.

Action Card - November 2018

Provided by Colette Joyce, National Justice and Peace Network

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk <<http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk>>



Equality for Women

“Equality,” by definition, is equality for all. There are many groups, comprised of both men and women, who suffer serious disadvantage, so why do we still need to single out equality for women, half the world’s population?

Historically, women have been deliberately excluded from many social benefits and activities, usually at the times when these were established or created but sometimes even at a later date, if it was deemed more beneficial to men.

One thinks of women not being allowed to attend the new Universities of Paris, Oxford and Cambridge in the twelfth century, or being banned from using the Football Association’s playing fields in the UK between 1921-1971. 6 In Saudi Arabia, women were only granted permission to drive in 2017, a privilege that men have enjoyed since the invention of the motor car. In every arena from law to business, from medicine to sport, women have had to play catch-up to men by first removing the barriers that created their inequality.

Nowhere was this more evident than in politics, when the great advance of democracy still restricted voting entitlement to males. Thanks to the courage and witness of those in the suffrage movements (both men and women) women won the right to vote one by one in countries around the world throughout the 20th Century.

This work is not yet finished. In the UK just 32% of MPs are women and it has never reached 50%. Women are discouraged in many places from voting or seeking office, including in my own Roman Catholic Church where only men vote at synods and papal elections.

As the UK celebrates 100 years of suffrage for women in 2018, we need to “never give up, never give in” seeking that equality that all human beings share as beloved children of God.

Find Out More

Women in the UK Parliament:

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN01250>

Detailed Timeline for Women’s Suffrage Worldwide

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage#Timeline

Take Action

Encourage women you know to register to vote, especially women age 18-25. Write to a female MP and thank her for her public service. A list can be found here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/?sort=4&type=0>

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## **Book corner**

This has been well supported, raising £180 over the year. Good quality books are always wanted

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Christmas Post



Are YOU able to deliver Christmas post to an area. In Barrow? If so please see Sue Millard. Help is always required and appreciated. Cards will be sorted at 4pm on Friday 7th December, and you can collect them for delivery from Sunday 9th December.

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## **Tombola**

Judith Smithers would be pleased to receive items to go on the tombola stall.

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Finance

You may have realised that our church finances quite often cause concern. It's very expensive to run and maintain our premises. All the usual household bills need paying – gas, electricity, water, insurance, cleaning, etc – which are on a much larger scale for Trinity than for our own houses. We also have to pay a charge for the Maintenance of the Ministry. We are subsidised by the United Area for this, but it still amounts to a massive £614 per person per year! Which is £11.80 per person per week, just for the Maintenance of the Ministry! That's without the 'household' bills, so we really need quite a lot more than that.

Our church collections for the weeks September 30th to October 21st totalled £1860.47. It seems a lot of money, but when we realise what it has to cover, it's not a lot. Many people support our fund raising events and this is both vital, and very much appreciated. This year, approximately £3400 has been

raised through these events, which is a great help. If you can think of any ways you could raise more money for our church, please let the appropriate person know, and you can be helped to do it.

As a church, a group of Christians, our main focus shouldn't be on raising money, but if we're to keep a presence in the area, a place where we can serve the needs of the people in the area, we need a building in the area; one that is safe, practical and attractive. Such a building will help us to spread our Christian message, and to live our lives as more effective Christians in our community, so please, prayerfully consider what you can do to help.



Junior Mission for All (JMA) awards 2018

As always, it was good to have Yvonne Blackley lead us in our worship together on 7th October.

During our service, which was focussing on the role of serving (this being one of the ten Holy Habits that we have been exploring Sunday by Sunday), the certificates were presented to our Mission Box holders, who have collected money throughout the year for the work of JMA.

These funds are part of the Methodist World Mission fund, and Mission in Britain fund, resourcing and supporting day to day projects worldwide, and reacting to all emergency disaster appeals.

During 2018 a total amount of £589.91 has been collected in the boxes - £554.91 in JMA boxes and £35 in World Mission boxes

This is another wonderful result, and as Mission Secretary I would like to say a big thank you to all our collectors and contributors for their continued support and generosity

If anyone else feels able to support this worthy cause, please do have a word with me, as collecting boxes are always available.

Daphne Watkinson

Yvonne Farrow will be pleased to receive all Bible Society collecting boxes, and any donations at the beginning of December so that they may be sent to the society in the New Year

Many thanks to all those who have supported the Charity and if anyone else would like a box, I have some new ones.

Thank you . Yvonne Farrow

Christingle

A Christingle is made up of an orange representing the world with a red ribbon around it representing the blood of Jesus. Fruits and sweets (usually dolly mixtures) are skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. And finally a lighted candle is pushed into the centre of the orange representing Christ, the light of the world

Making a Christingle

- Fasten a piece of red sticky tape or ribbon around the middle of the orange.
- Cut a small cross in the top of each orange (place it on a tray to catch the juice) and lay a square of silver foil (75mm/3in square) over the cross.
- Place a candle on top and wedge it firmly into the orange. The foil will help prevent hot wax running onto a child's hand.
- Load four cocktail sticks with raisins, sultanas, cherries or soft sweets and insert them into the orange around the base of the candle.
- **Bring it with you when you come to our Christingle service at 5pm on Christmas Eve**



Weekly activities at Trinity Church Centre

Monday	12.45 – 2.45pm	- Parent & toddler group
	7 pm – 9pm	- Bible study
Tuesday	1.30 - 3.45pm	- Indoor bowls
	5.30 – 7pm	- Brownies, for girls 7 to 10 years old
	5.45 – 6.45pm	- Rainbows, for girls 5 to 7 years old
	7.15 – 9pm	- Guides, for girls 10 to 14 years old
	7.15 – 9pm	- Senior Guides, girls 14-25 years old
Wednesday	9.30 – 11.30am	- Parent & toddler group
	6.15 – 7.30pm	- Junior badminton
	7.30 – 10pm	- Badminton
Thursday	8.45 - 9.30am	- Prayer group
	6 - 8pm	- Brownies, for girls 7 to 10 years old
Friday	1.30 – 4pm	- Badminton

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## Monthly activities at Trinity Church Centre

|                           |                |                                     |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday  | 10 – 11,30am   | Coffee morning - lounge             |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday   | 10 for 10,30am | Midweek communion - lounge          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday  | 3 -5pm         | Messy Church – games hall           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday | 11am           | Service at Risedale Retirement Home |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday | 2 - 4pm        | 2 for T - lounge                    |
| Alt Wednesdays            | 7.30 – 10.30pm | Play any Board Game - lounge        |

## What's on at TCC

### December

|                  |                 |                                                                                              |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 10-11.30am      | Coffee morning in the lounge                                                                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 12.30pm         | Church Christmas lunch. £6.50, but you MUST sign the list in the atrium if you want to come  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 10 for 10.30 am | Informal communion in the lounge                                                             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am            | Advent Bible study at the Baptist church                                                     |
|                  | 6.45pm          | Repeat of this morning's Advent Bible study. Again, at the Baptist church                    |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 4pm             | Last call for posting Christmas cards. Sorting of Christmas cards in the lounge. Help needed |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 3 -5.00pm       | Messy Church – free fun for families                                                         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 7.30-10.30pm    | Play any Board Game, in the lounge                                                           |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 12.30pm         | Carol singing in the town centre                                                             |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | 11am            | Service at Risedale Retirement Home                                                          |

### January

|                  |              |                                      |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 10-11.30am   | Coffee morning in the lounge         |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 7.30-10.30pm | Play any Board Game, in the lounge   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 3 -5.00pm    | Messy Church – free fun for families |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 11am         | Service at Risedale Retirement Home  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 2pm          | 2 for Tea.in the lounge              |
|                  | 7.30-10.30pm | Play any Board Game, in the lounge   |

## Services in December

|                  |                |                                                                                  |                 |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 11am           |                                                                                  | Mrs J Ladds     |
|                  | 4pm            | Joint service at Beacon Hill Advent music with Furness Chorale                   |                 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 11am           | Toy service. Please bring a gift for a child over 8, or a homeless person        | Rev J McLeod    |
|                  | 4pm            | Healing service, communion                                                       | Rev J McLeod    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | <b>10.30am</b> | Nativity service with Victoria Infants School                                    | Mrs H Edmondson |
|                  | 4pm            |                                                                                  | Rev M Williams  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 11am           |                                                                                  | Sophie Carnaby  |
|                  | 4pm            | Abbey Baptist are with us for a Carol service                                    | Rev Z Smith     |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | 5pm            | Christingle service                                                              | Rev J McLeod    |
|                  | 11.15pm        | Christmas Eve communion                                                          | Rev J McLeod    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | 10.30am        | Family service                                                                   | Mr & Mrs Ladds  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | <b>10.45am</b> | Worship and communion at the Baptist church, followed by a bring and share lunch | At Baptist      |
|                  | 4pm            | No service                                                                       | No service      |

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Services in January

6 th	11am		Rev D Jackson
	4pm	No service	No service
13 th	11am		Mr A Ladds
	4pm	Healing service, communion	Rev J McLeod
20 th	11am		Rev J McLeod
	4pm		Mrs J Ladds
27 th	11am	Communion	Sophie Carnaby
	4pm	Reflective service	Rev J McLeod

Please let me have your contributions for the February/March Newsletter by Sunday January 13th
Post - 4 Arundel Dr, Barrow, LA13 0HT. Thank you. Sue Millard.
Email – trinitychurchcentre@yahoo.com Phone 827095.