



## THE LATEST FROM THE CHURCH:

*What's Been Happening*

*What's Coming Up*

**Worship with us each Sunday if you can and join us at the various meetings during the week.**

**If you would like to know more about us check out our website**

**[www.trinityboardmills.org](http://www.trinityboardmills.org)**

## CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE

*FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM*

At the beginning of every year, it always feels that it will be a long 12 months - and yet here we are at the start of October and the seasons are changing again! Autumn is already very evident in the trees mellowing colours and starting to drop their leaves, and notifications about flu clinics are popping into our emails. Dane Ortlund in his book *Deeper* encourages us to think of vaccinations in a different way.

"Apparently the apostles considered the gospel not a one time vaccination that spares us from hell, but food to nourish us all the way to heaven"

Our magazine is available via our website and we can post to those we know prefer it in paper copy but please feel free to print a copy for neighbours, friends or family.

If you haven't yet given us your contact details and permissions please contact us at [comms@trinityboardmills.org](mailto:comms@trinityboardmills.org)

We remember in our thoughts and prayers the families of Mrs Dinah Conroy, Mrs Margaret Robinson and Mrs Molly Martin.

*We pray for comfort for any who have been touched by bereavement in recent months within their own families and that they may know God's love at this time.*

# From the Manse

Casting our minds back over our time at Boardmills there is one word which dominates the memory. Covid. It was not long at all after we arrived that we encountered the first truly global pandemic. March 2020 felt as long as an entire year as we went day-to-day from news bulletin to press conferences. Numbers were rising, people were fearful, and everything seemed and indeed felt apocalyptic. Soon enough social distancing, masks and self-isolation were words and behaviours which became second nature to us all. It is difficult to think back to those days and to consider all that we had been through together.



They were days when we had to navigate not just the continually updating and changing guidance from the government or the church, but we had to grapple with new technology. The pew morphed into the sofa, the preacher could be paused and rewound, and coffee breaks became the norm. Staying in touch was by phone calls, online meetings, and handwritten letters. Bible teaching and devotion had to move online in daily Psalm videos, an advent series of videos, emails, and preaching to a camera in an empty building. These things all seem so foreign and distant in our minds. Yet, we are so thankful for so many who in those strange days worked tirelessly to maintain contact with one another. They dropped off food packages, made calls round the area, prayed down the phone, encouraged and uplifted so many people. It was a time when the strength of our fellowship and faith was tested and endured.

As we emerged from our little isolation bubbles the hive of activity in the church began anew. We have lit off fireworks into the sky to complement Sam Shaw's awesome fireball displays. The community came out in overwhelming numbers to be thrilled as the colours burst into the night sky and to hear Sam declare how Jesus is the light that overcame the darkness. We have had Christmas events which saw many from the congregation dress up and share the good news of Jesus as those who were eyewitnesses to his birth. There were many, many mince pies eaten and enjoyed with the mulled wine. Christmas Tree lightings became a new tradition as we were able to show how Jesus is the light that came into the world. Hope Explored, Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored became a staple of the congregational diet as we sought to go deeper and to share our faith with those who live in our midst. It has been a busy season with new ventures in the last year as we attended the Saintfield Show for the first time to share about who we are and the Jesus we believe in. It was a wonderful experience to work alongside one another and to witness so many flourishing in how they shared their faith. Many of my most treasured memories will be in seeing those whom God has gifted put their gifts to use in his service.

Certainly, when we reflect, what we will remember most is the times we shared together in service to God. It will be how people gave selflessly of their summer holidays to organise and lead Sports Connect. It will be when we gathered on Sunday evenings to consider what we believe, how we live as Christians and how we pray. It will be the regular everyday service which saw boys, girls, men and women ministered to through the gospel each and every week through the church organisations. It will be sitting in the homes of many in the congregation on days of joy and sorrow and hoping to offer a word of comfort from God. There were days of immense joy and celebration but also days of great heartbreak together. In these moments we could always testify to the presence and peace of Jesus who drew near to bless and strengthen those in distress. He is always faithful and in our time in Boardmills he proved it in countless ways. It is hard to summarise our time together as it covers such flurry of activity. However, let me say this in finishing. Thank you to you all, for your welcome, your support, and your encouragement. As we begin this new chapter in our life as a family, we will carry all of you in our hearts and certainly will carry you to the Lord in prayer daily.

God bless each and every one of you.

Richard



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*\*\*Save the date\*\**  
*Our annual Light Party will be held on October 27th*  
*see website for more details!*

*Romans 13:12*

*"The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light."*

# Trinity Summer Camp 2023



Although the weather may have had us confused this year, when Trinity Summer Camp is on you know exactly what time of year it is! From the 7th of August we welcomed children and teenagers from our congregation and the surrounding community to a week filled with fun, friendships and we spent time being Epic Explorers, following the age appropriate Christianity Explored programme to learn more about who Jesus is, why He came and what it means to follow Him.

Each day was busy, beginning with the team of leaders coming together for last minute preparations, and then a time of devotions whilst other members of the congregation prepared lunch for them so that they were refreshed and ready to greet the primary ages that arrived early afternoon.

The young ones had an afternoon of football and outside sports on the football pitch, games and activities inside the hall, or crafts to make and do with their leaders. Interspersed was a time of singing and dancing and teaching of God's word and the leaders were delighted how well all the children listened and interacted with all that was going on.

the evenings, there was also a programme for teenagers, something that we hadn't been able to run fully for a couple of years so it was such a blessing to have 5 nights to get alongside this age group. Again, there were discussions and instruction on what it is to follow Jesus but plenty of fun, food and fellowship - keystones to our youth work at Trinity for many years. Amongst the beach themed party night, board games, team challenges we wouldn't dare to not run our water night which is meant to have the young people going home a bit wet, but it seems some of the leaders were definitely going away quite soggy too!

On Friday afternoon we also had the chance to meet the families of the primary age children with hotdogs and snacks for everyone, letting the parents get a little bit of the flavour of the week.

Whilst this is always a great week for us to work with young people in our community, it doesn't stop there. This is maybe the first time some of the children have been with us, but over the years many have then returned to join in with the organisations that run throughout the year. From our Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade and Pulse youth club and Sunday CE, there is lots for young people to get involved with and we have been able to start up our Youth Fellowship again on a Sunday evening. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more details about these regular youth organisations and any special events over the next few weeks or feel free to email [youth@trinityboardmills.org](mailto:youth@trinityboardmills.org) if you have any questions in the meantime.



We recently offered members of the congregation the opportunity to be trained in the use of our defibrillator machines, which are held at Killaney Hall and the Church building. These items are really life savers and even though they come with clear operating instructions, many people are scared to use them, worried about getting it wrong, or just feel the panic in the moment of an emergency might overtake them.

So, with no pressure on anyone, the opportunity to learn a bit more and become familiar with the procedures of operating the defibrillators was setup with Avonmore Training. A very thorough and interesting evening of instruction took place alongside some practical "hands on experience" - on medical dummies not humans!!

Avonmore Training Solutions Ltd is a local company, with a very close connection to Boardmills.

Graham Walsh and Lynda Donaldson (nee McCandless) founded Avonmore Training Solutions Ltd in 2016 to help promote learning CPR skills and the placement of Defibrillators within the community and local businesses.



Lynda, originally from Boardmills, suffered a cardiac arrest in 2011, in Saintfield, and was given CPR by a school nurse, who was passing by, then soon after a first aid trainer, who had a defibrillator in his car, came on scene. She was successfully resuscitated, on the street, within a few minutes and before the emergency services arrived.

Lynda said, "This life-or-death episode brought Graham and I to the realisation that everyone should learn how to give good quality CPR", and so their journey began. They both studied to achieve training qualifications and first aid qualifications and now train First Aid and First Response Emergency Care (pre-hospital care) to local businesses, community groups and to learners from overseas.

The latest development for Graham and Lynda is Mid Down and Lisburn District Community First Responders (Charity) which they started in November 2022. This is a group of 30 volunteers who are trained to assess the patient, deliver CPR if required and give reassurance to the patient and family before the ambulance arrives.

When the NI Ambulance Service receive a 999 call for chest pain, choking, breathing difficulty, diabetic issues, seizures etc (category 1 and 2 calls) they send a message to the volunteers who, if available, can attend within minutes. Every volunteer has a kit which includes a defibrillator, blood pressure monitor, thermometer etc. The area covered is some 90 sq. miles. Lisburn, Dunmurry, Moira, Royal Hillsborough, Saintfield, Carryduff and Moneyreagh and everywhere in between, including Boardmills. In fact, there are 2 volunteers living within a mile of Trinity Church.

Graham said, "Thank you to all who attended on the 15th of September at Killaney Hall to learn CPR and I hope this is a skill you will never need to use."

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# Farewell and Hello ....

On Sunday 3rd September we collectively assured Richard and Lynsey with Sophie, Rebekah, and little Daniel of our very best wishes as they left us to embark on an exciting new journey. A new home in Ballygowan means least disruption for the family as Richard embarks on further study for his Doctorate. We presented them with a cheque, gift voucher, soft toys and a family ticket to Belfast Zoo and spent some time with them over lunch in the Hall. We are so thankful for their time with us and remember with fondness their enthusiasm, many great ideas and dedication to the teaching of God's Word here.



We are embarking on a journey of our own, mindful that especially in a time of change and uncertainty we should be conscious of walking "in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Colossians 1:10.

We are delighted to have Rev John Torrens of 2nd Saintfield Presbyterian join us as Convenor of our Vacancy. John has already met with Session and Committee, familiarising himself with the people, the ministries here and our situation. As we seek to appoint a new Teaching Elder there is a process which we will work through under John's direction. The objective is to get ourselves to a position where we can present ourselves to Linkage. As we start back into a new season of work there have been some real encouragements already, but we also know that there are significant challenges ahead of us. When we are able to we will update you with any developments in this regard.

Meantime please pray for the leadership here, for John as he takes on this additional workload, and for our various ministries - that together and collectively we may reflect the love of Christ to each other and to the community around us.

If any one should require pastoral help or assistance during this period of vacancy please contact Adrian or speak with any of the elders who will liaise with John.

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The new session of Boardmills Women's Institute started in October with the AGM.

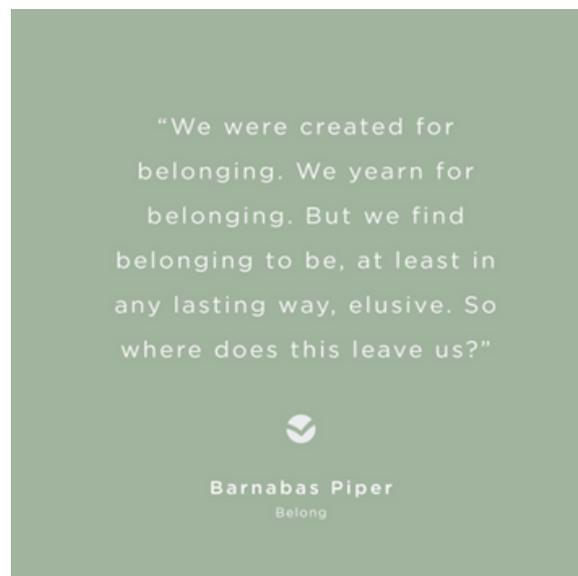
Some Trinity members were elected into leadership positions with Margaret as President, Jean as Secretary and June Kirkpatrick as Assistant Secretary. Boardmills WI meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Temple Golf Club. New members will be made very welcome. More Institute news can be found on social media - follow BoardmillsWI on Instagram, Facebook and X (Twitter).



# New Term, New Study for Fellowship Groups

The vision for fellowship groups in our Church family is to build upon our primary purpose to Know God, Follow Jesus and Live by His Spirit. We do this by glorifying God and as a Church family, growing and strengthening each other through Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

This term we will begin a new study using the book "Belong". In *Belong*, Barnabas Piper explores how you can help to create a church where everybody feels at home: a place where fellow believers build genuine, honest, meaningful Christian relationships and enjoy deep fellowship as a community of believers. This book will help you to see that belonging to a church is a good gift from God, the outworking of our identity as brothers and sisters in Christ, and worth your time, love, and commitment.



This term Fellowship Groups will run the 1st + 3rd Wednesday (Killaney Hall) and Thursday (Trish + Colin Foreman's home) in the month, from 7:30 - 8:30pm as outlined below from now to Christmas. For more details email [office@trinityboardmills.org](mailto:office@trinityboardmills.org)

## When will we meet

1st + 3rd  
Wednesday (Hall) and  
Thursday (Home) in the  
month  
7:30 - 8:30

20th + 21st September  
4th + 5th October  
18th + 19th October  
1st + 2nd November  
15th + 16th November  
6th + 7th December



# Trinity Church Weekend



**Church Weekend, 28th-30th April 2023**

**How time flies and how quickly things change.**

**The Church weekend was planned for Friday 28th - Sunday 30th April 2023. The weekend was at the church and was led by Rev Ben Walker from Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church. The theme was "The Church Family."**

**The weekend opened with a praise service on Friday evening and teaching from Ben.**

**We discussed what a family church looked like. How the church family should be a place where we are loved and accepted. We should not have to wear a mask. We should be accepted for who we are, as we are loved and accepted by Jesus Christ.**

**The church family may not be ideal but it's real. Membership does not add something extra to the church. It enables the church to be the church, both now and for years to come.**

**The Family is a place where we are committed, we're not volunteers, we do stuff because we are part of the family. So, it should be with the church family.**

**Our statement which was carried through the whole weekend was: -**

**God is at work, through (t)his church, by His grace and for His glory.**

**Ben posed the question. How do we find our place in that family?**

On Saturday morning we met in the hall for further study of our theme. Though smaller in number we were blessed by Ben's enthusiasm.

Ben spoke from Eph 4 v1-16. Highlighting three pictures of, The Fathers Family, The Spirit's dwelling place and The body of Christ. He identified three key words. Unity, Diversity & Maturity.

**Unity.** Christ has made us one, make every effort to keep that unity. We should not take unity or the church body for granted. As we think about the human body, we should think of church. Do we cherish the oneness. A fractious church does not reflect well to the people around us.

**Diversity.** Christ has made us different. We should appreciate that every member is important. Things make us different but should not make us difficult. If we constantly look not to take part in the whole life of the church, what is that saying about us.

**Maturity.** Christ makes us mature. We should give every opportunity for Him to work in and through us and as a result build us up together, One Church, One Family together One Church family.

On Sunday Ben summed up all the thoughts over the weekend and demonstrated his talk by making a chocolate cake in a cup in the microwave during the children's talk.

This brought the weekend to a close. Ben showed us that many different ingredients, measured and put together, can with God's help, produce a sweet tasting, nourishing and pleasant church, which should be encouraging and welcoming to all who come through our church door.

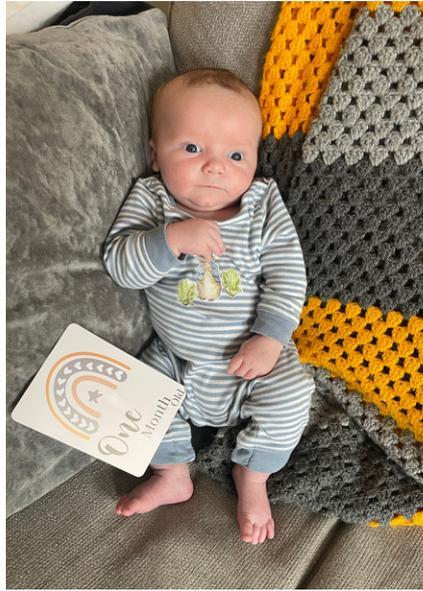
Thanks, Ben, for a very encouraging weekend.



As a church family, we love to celebrate those special moments in our members lives. Congratulations to all these engagements, weddings and new arrivals!



Ellis and Victoria welcomed their littel daughter Lydia



Robbie and Naomi's little joy Caleb!



Andrew and Anna are blessed with Sophia, a little sister for Judah.



Meghan agreed to have Sam as her co-driver!



Fern said yes! Congratulations to her and Ben !



Beth and John and Roger and Aimee all looking stunning on their wedding days!



# Coronation Celebrations



Following the death of our late Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022, Charles III immediately became our king. There is a lot of protocol, ceremony and logistics surrounding the death of one monarch and the accession of another, and Charles III was proclaimed king on September 10th, followed by subsequent proclamations in other Commonwealth realms.

His coronation took place on 6th May 2023 in Westminster Abbey highlighting his role in spiritual and secular affairs in a service that was a little different from past British coronations as there was a move to represent multiple faiths, cultures, and communities across the United Kingdom.

Many of these communities gathered together to have their own celebrations of this historic event, and at Boardmills on Sunday 7th May, after the morning service, over 70 Trinity members and friends joined in a lunch to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

The meal, prepared by George Hanna, was very much appreciated by everyone and included a special cake to mark the event. Many of the children wore crowns that they had made in Children's Church and they also received souvenir flags and balloons as mementos of the day.



Like many congregations, there are folk that regularly give of their time and talents to carry out jobs behind the scenes. Just before our AGM in June, our Finance Team were hard at work - so it was lovely to be able to say thank you to them, and the ladies were all gifted delightful little jamjar posies. that were grown, gathered and gifted by Margaret - who also needs our appreciation for all she does as chair of our Congregational Committee.



Need to know something ?

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