



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

CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Welcome to our first edition of Connections magazine for 2024!

A lot has happened in our church family since our last edition, and a lot of things to look forward to .

As we wrote in our Harvest 2023 edition, the Patton family left the manse and are now settled in their new life. Our vacancy continues to be well watched over by Rev John Torrens and decisions will be discussed and deliberated but ultimately come to fruition as and when it is God's timing for us.

In the meantime life goes on and ministries continue around Boardmills - and a refresh on our signage will ensure the community knows exactly where we are! Nothing like spring for a bit of a spruce up is there?



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**

We remember in our thoughts and prayers the families of Mr Billy Douglas, Mrs Rhona McKeown and the Fox family who have recently lost Mr Frank Fox and his sister May Fox. Also we were saddened to learn of the recent death of Robert Mitchell.

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

For many, spring is the time of the year to look forward to the most. As nature awakens after a long winter and life and light begin to appear, spring is the sign that better days lie ahead.

By the time we get to this point in the year, we are ready for better days. We're ready to see blossom return to our gardens. We're ready to feel the warmth of the sun. We're ready to keep our curtains open and let the long evenings spill into our homes. This is what makes this time of year so wonderful, the fullness of all these things is yet to come.

However, as we wait for these to be fully realised, we also endure the final days of winter. It is this now and not yet reality of spring that reminds us of where God's people find themselves today. With the coming of Jesus, God's people have been given the hope of eternal blessing.


Yet as we wait for this hope to be fully realised, we must endure the last days of life in this old, sinful world.

This is what Paul sought to remind the Corinthians in his second letter to them when he said, ***'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.'***

This is the reality for all those who have put their trust in Jesus. Although the signs of sin remain; aging bodies, weary hearts, tired minds, within each Christian is a new creation waiting to burst through. We are like the daffodil bulbs that are growing all around us. In the depths of winter, they look lifeless, but with the coming of spring, they burst into life and display the full glory of what they were created to be.

This is how it is for those who trust in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. He promises His redeemed that when He returns or calls them home, their created purpose will be fulfilled. As we wait for that day, although we will carry the remnants of our old, sinful lives, we can be assured that on the inside we are filled with the life of His Holy Spirit which will one day cause us to burst forth and display the glory for which we were created. It is this promise that fills us with hope and enables to endure these difficult days.

So this spring, as you enjoy the anticipation of better days and look forward to the flowers and the blossom, warmer days and longer evenings, remember that this is what it is like for those in Christ. Remember that although the old, sinful world remains, better days lie ahead.



A THOUGHT FOR EASTER.

It feels like no time since the shelves in the shops were stacked with selection boxes, the streets and our living rooms were twinkling with fairy lights and our living rooms were reorganised around the Christmas tree. It feels like no time since we were singing carols, reading the advent story and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on earth. We get caught up by the busyness and excitement of Christmas that perhaps we don't about Easter. The shops sell Easter eggs but there isn't quite the same full scale displays as Christmas. Easter might get a mention on the TV but unlike Christmas there is no dedicated TV schedule with movie after movie about the season.

The world appears to neglect Easter a little in light of Christmas but Easter is the centre and crux of our faith. For without Easter there is no Christmas. Without Easter, there is no hope. Without Easter, there is no good news. All of the Christian faith and the message of the gospel centres and hinges on the message of Easter. Good Friday and Easter Sunday stand out as the most important days in the Christian calendar.

Easter is not about bunny rabbits or chocolate eggs it is about the darkest day in history which is followed by the brightest day in history. The message of good news and hope is centred around the darkest day in history, Good Friday. The day the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God was crucified upon a cross at Calvary. Crucifixion was the most horrific form of death imaginable. It was long, it was painful, it was humiliating, it was barbaric and yet the Son of God willingly endured it for us. The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus endured the cross and despised its shame for the joy that was set before Him.

And what was the joy that was set before Him? The joy of saving a people from their sin and to save them to eternal life with the Father. Jesus went down into the horror of death and plunged out through the other side in order to provide a limitless supply of mercy and grace to his people. He came to save his people, a people he loved and so he endured the cross because the joy of saving His people surpassed the pain. On the cross Jesus took our sin, paid the price we should pay, bore the wrath of the Father so that we might be forgiven, so that we might receive life.

And we have that hope of life, because the story doesn't end on Good Friday. The darkest day was followed by the brightest day, Easter Sunday, when up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph over His foes. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what gives us hope, gives us life. Jesus Christ is our living hope. He endured the pain and defeated sin, He rose again and defeated the grave and He sits at the right hand of the Father calling a people to Himself.

The Christian faith centres around Easter but I wonder does your life centre around Easter? Are you living life in Christ? Have you tasted and experienced His forgiveness, His hope and the life He offers? Easter is the greatest news and it isn't just a story to recite or a holiday to enjoy. Easter is for everyone, to know and to experience, for when we come to Jesus by faith, the one who died and rose again, our stories become ones of grace, forgiveness, hope and life everlasting.

Ellis.

The Congregational Committee were saddened to learn of the passing of Billy Douglas last year and the very recent death of Robert Mitchell. Both had been loyal and important members of Committee for many years, giving freely of their time and skills in helping take care of our church and properties Billy also served faithfully as a Church Trustee up until 2018. We are grateful for their service and friendship within our community.

Youth Fellowship Weekend March 2024



Recently the Pulse senior youth group spent a weekend in the Presbyterian Centre in Rostrevor. This was our first weekend away as a group; and it was incredible, filled with so much faith, fun and fellowship. We arrived at the centre on the Friday evening, where we took some time to explore and try out the pool and table tennis tables. After this we gathered to play a series of games in the hall, and we were divided into our teams for the weekend: 'the dope disciples', 'the dinner ladies', and 'still waiting for Jacob'. We spent a few hours having fun together, collecting points for our teams, before moving into the centre again to have our first session of Bible study.

We focussed on the theme of POV (point of view) throughout the weekend, looking at the views of the world, God and us regarding our futures, as this was a topic which many of us think about frequently. On Friday night we discussed and learned about phrases used in our society which are self-centred and influence us subconsciously, such as in movies and online. We also learned the importance of balancing our dreams and plans with humility and obedience to God, as said in Proverbs 16:9 - "A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps."

On Saturday morning, we ate breakfast together before heading out into Rostrevor to take part in a photo challenge. We worked in our teams to take creative pictures around the town for around an hour. After returning, we came together in the living room to explore God's point of view. We talked about the perfect relationship within the Trinity and the example of community it shows us, as well as why God created us and our purpose on earth. This was my favourite session as it reminded me of the incredible magnitude of the sacrifice God made so that we could have a relationship with Him in Christ. In the afternoon, we headed to an activity centre, where we took part in archery and wall climbing. We had great fun climbing outdoors, with Susanna and the boys having a particular flare for it, before competing with each other in archery.

In the evening, we had our final session, where some of the leaders shared their testimonies and some of the trials they had faced on their walk with God. It was so valuable for all of us as we got to hear how God's plan plays out in lives around us which was incredibly encouraging and relatable. We finished the session by organising our own service for the next morning, picking songs and volunteering for different elements of it. Afterwards, we were treated to some pizza making followed by free time. On Sunday morning, we got packed up after breakfast and went for a walk by the sea and into Kilbroney park, before heading back for our service. It was made up of contributions of favourite songs, verse reflections and prayers from each of us. The boys even made a series of mini dramas of Bible stories, which we all thoroughly enjoyed and found very funny. We also looked through all the pictures from the photo challenge, which was very amusing. It was a fabulous way to round off the trip which everyone truly loved. Finally, before we left, the points were revealed and 'the dope disciples' took home the win with most points.

I asked a few people for their favourite memories from the weekend: for Caleb, his favourite part was "meeting people from outside the regular YF attendees, making new friendships and strengthening those I had already." Andrew said his favourite part was "spending time with a group of Christian friends, learning and growing in faith together." Erin said, "I loved hearing people's experiences and learning about how to live in our world today." I loved this trip for similar reasons; and I felt so refreshed after it, as we were able to support each other, have fun and strengthen our friendships, centring them around Christ.

We are all so thankful to all of the leaders who put so much time and energy into organising what was an amazing weekend for everyone, and for all the other youth opportunities that they work so hard to organise. We all really appreciated all the thoughtful details that helped us draw closer to God and hopefully we will be blessed with the opportunity to spend more time together in the future.



TRIBUTE TO MRS RHONA MCKEOWN

(given on the day of the Enrolment Service just after Rhona's death)

This morning as we gather for our GB/BB enrolment service - we are all saddened to learn of the death of Mrs Rhona McKeown, Rhona had been President of this GB Company for over 25 years and a member of it for over 60 years.

Within this congregation, we are very much aware of the huge contribution Rhona has made to this church and it was always with an attitude of serving others and encouraging others to become involved in the life of the church. Rhona was involved in PW, organising and providing floral arrangements, catering, the Ladies Bible Study Group and much more but it is her service in the Girls' Brigade that we want to pay tribute to her this morning.

Many of you girls here may only have known Rhona to see but Rhona would probably have known your mum or your grandmother if they ever have been a member of this Girls' Brigade Company.

The GB Motto is to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ - and Rhona's life showed that - in serving her Saviour she served others. Her involvement in Girls' Brigade has stretched over 60 years, probably from the time her own daughters were starting out in Girls' Brigade. Rhona soon became a very valuable member of this company, working tirelessly to support Captains, officers and girls. Rhona's line would always be - just let me know what I can do to help - I can work in the background while others work with the girls.



Over the years Rhona made countless props for display items and provided many finishing touches to display evenings that made them memorable and special. She transported countless girls to and from GB and GB competitions. She welcomed special guests, helped out with administration and before internet Rhona was the one who would search out the information and she kept memorabilia for future reference. She provided many delicious suppers for GB meetings and events. She was there for the packing of the shoe boxes for Blythswood, working in the background serving others, so that everything would run smoothly, whether in her role as an officer or as president. Even when her health was declining Rhona was always interested in what the girls were doing and was determined to be present at GB services and events, to show her interest and support.

Over the years all captains and officers have valued Rhona's knowledge of GB, her wisdom in handling situations, her help in organising special events and even when things were discouraging she was faithful, prayerful, committed, and always encouraged those of us in leadership because she understood the time and the sacrifice it takes to be fully involved in an organisation.

We thank God for Rhona's service to this GB Company and we extend our sympathy to her family, who will miss her the most.

The final words of the GB prayer reads:
... Encircle us with your love, as we seek to serve and follow You. Help us to show Your love to others that the world may be a better place.

In serving this GB company Rhona sought to serve and follow her Saviour Jesus Christ. She showed her love for others and made a difference to others, may we follow her example.

Changing Times

Some alterations are being made to the distribution of Freewill Offering envelopes for 2025 and preparation for that starts now.



In recent years contributing to church funds has changed with an increasing number paying by Direct Debit. We have found that envelopes in some cases were not being used. The cost of providing these envelopes has risen and we have found it necessary to take a look at how we can make improvements and cut our costs.

From 2025 those who pay by Direct Debit will no longer be issued with Freewill Offering, United Appeal, Property or a Harvest Offering envelopes, unless they specifically ask for them to make additional contributions throughout the year. One problem we could foresee was that we may need to change Freewill Offering Numbers again - something we wanted to avoid.

Fortunately, we have now found a supplier who will print envelopes with specific numbers. This means that members will be able to keep the Freewill Offering Numbers they have at present and those who pay by Direct Debit will still retain their number for recording contributions and Gift Aid to be claimed where appropriate. Those who prefer to pay by envelope each week can continue doing so.

Each year there is a problem distributing envelopes and statements of amounts paid to members by the end of the year. One way we can solve this is making contact by text or email with all members, informing them that the envelopes for the new year are available and allowing time to finalize donations for the year. We are asking that all members who have an email address inform us NOW by contacting us on the church email address of treasurer@trinityboardmills.org.

Paying by Direct Debit

Paying by Direct Debit is a simple procedure. First decide how much you want to contribute each month. Then make contact with your bank to set up the Direct Debit (this can be done online). That amount will be paid out (preferably at the beginning of the month) from your account into the church's account. You can pay into all the funds of the church monthly in one payment, or into any of the funds you wish, just let the treasurer know how the amount is to be divided up and he will do the rest. Remember to quote your name and Freewill Offering No as reference. (Church's Bank Details available from treasurer or by email treasurer@trinityboardmills.org.)

New Members or family members now in employment and paying tax.

Anyone who does not at present have envelopes and would like to contribute to church funds either by envelope or directly can speak to the treasurer or any of the finance team who will either issue envelopes or allocate a number for Direct Debits.

Consider Gift Aiding your contributions

If you are a tax-payer please consider signing a Gift Aid Declaration. This allows the church to claim back the tax you have paid on your donations. Your contributions are increased by 25%. Copies of the Gift Aid Declaration can be requested from the treasurer or by email from treasurer@trinityboardmills.org.

Extra envelopes will be available

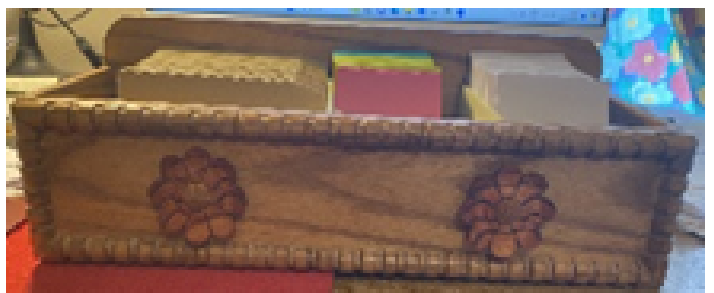
We plan to make extra envelopes available for all funds of the church on the vestibule table.

Freewill / Harvest/ Property / General Mission (incorporating United Appeal) and Trinity Support (which supports five members of the congregation in full-time mission service) - (brown).

The late Frank Fox made a carved box for envelopes some years ago and we will bring that box into a prominent place again, so look out for it!

Thank you all for generously supporting the work here in Boardmills each year. We look forward to and appreciate your continuing support.

The Finance Team



Questions which may arise:-

Question - I don't want to pay by Direct Debit. I want to put my envelope on the collection plate when I attend.

Answer - You can continue to do that as long as you wish. Things will not change for you but it would be helpful if you had an email address or mobile no to please let us know, so that we can keep you informed.

Question - I don't have an email address.

Answer - Envelopes will be issued as usual and statement will be in the box as before. We will work with you, but it would be helpful if you had a mobile no or could provide an email address e.g. for a trusted family member so that we can make contact and keep you informed.

Question - I only pay once at the end of the year and I don't use the envelopes.

Answer - If you do not require a set of envelopes, please let us know. Donations can always be sent in a plain envelope which should show your name and Freewill Offering Number for identification and to which fund(s) your donation is to be allocated. If you have a mobile no or an email address please let us know.

Question - I do pay monthly by Direct Debit but I often use an envelope on occasions to make additional payments into certain funds.

Answer - If you require a set of envelopes for 2025 that's ok but please let us know right away. If you don't want a full set of envelopes there will be spare envelopes available on the vestibule table for Freewill, Property, Harvest and a newly-named envelope 'General Missions Incorporating United Appeal' and Trinity Mission Support (Outreach Fund)

Question - I can't pay by Direct Debit and I don't have Internet connection. I am unable to attend church for health reasons to put my envelopes on the collection plate.

Answer - If you have a mobile no, let us know or ask a friend or relative to make contact with your elder, any church member or by email at treasurer@trinityboardmills.org and we will arrange for someone to call.

For any other queries email treasurer@trinityboardmills.org and we will answer any concerns you may have.



MR FRANCIS (FRANKIE) FOX

A Tribute

Francis (Frankie) Fox J.P. passed away peacefully surrounded by his family after a short stay in hospital on Wednesday 10th January 2024. Frank was remarkably in his 102nd year and is survived by Anna, their daughters Isobel, Ann, Effie, and son George. Frank enjoyed a long, eventful, and happy life. A family man, devoted to his loving wife, sharing these last few years in Care together at Beechvale, Balloo, where they were attended to wonderfully by the staff, and their devoted family.

Frank was a man much respected in the community.

He was appointed a Justice of the Peace and he involved himself in his community too, with Frank's calming and gentle demeanour recognised and noted, and many appreciating his wise counsel.

This wisdom was readily appreciated and acknowledged by the many organisations he gave his time to, the Loyal Orders, the Temple Motorcycle Club, the Temple & District Vintage and Classics Club, to name but a few.

A man supremely gifted with his hands, the evidences of which are plain to be seen in many places, including in the church here where he served for a lifetime. Many would simply marvel at how those gifted hands could create something of exquisite beauty out of a lump of oak, pine, or apple-wood! Frank was a man who so very humbly used the gifts God had blessed him with.

It was these hands that were used during the II World War, fitting out the ships for the Atlantic Convoy, in construction of the Mulberry Harbours in preparation for the D-Day landings, and also in repair of housing right across London after the Blitz.

In latter years, the family made a point of visiting the five or so addresses where Frank stayed in England during the war as a young man, from Tayside to Birkenhead and then to various addresses in London.

I remember Frank recounting his experience of the German Rockets flying into the capital, of hearing them coming, then that eerie silence as they fell and wreaked havoc on the population below.

All those years later you could sense the profound and lasting effect that this had on a young man from Boardmills.

In the church Frank exercised the faith in Jesus as Saviour which he had grasped at the Temple Mission Hall many many years ago, serving on the church committee and as congregational secretary for many years, before being ordained as an Elder here in September 1982.

On Kirk Session we appreciated his wisdom, his humility, his servant heart, and his wit! We at Trinity Boardmills are the poorer for his passing but are so thankful for fellowship in the Gospel, and for his long and fruitful life.

We remember the family in their loss, especially Anna, pledging our loving support, and praying that they will know the peace and mercy of God in the days to come.

Cast your eyes around the building here and in so many places - in the pews, the Minster's Roll, the newel posts, and many other places you will see the skilful work of a man who used his abundant talents to enrich our meeting house.

Look to the legacy of faith and service he has left us, and you will find joy in a testimony of faith in God and Salvation through trust in His Son Jesus Christ.

Frank never sought any praise, glory, or recognition for himself. Indeed he often shied away from it. Only for Jesus - only for Him.

THINGS COMING UP

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL

POP UP CHIC BOUTIQUE

Friday 12th April, 7pm McKee Hall

Join us for a browse through pre-loved clothes and a chat over a cuppa. Pay on the day for anything you select.

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

17th - 20th June, 6.30pm - 8.30pm McKee Hall

Come along to enjoy Games, Quizzes, Memory Verses, Songs and Bible Lessons. For all Primary School Boys and Girls P1-P7.

JUNE

AUGUST

TRINITY SPORTS CAMP

5th - 9th August @ Killaney Hall and Football Pitch

A full week of fun, games and stories at TSC. Primary kids in the afternoon and teens programme in the evening.



MORE INFO:

TRINITYBOARDMILLS.ORG

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

Although the Harte family have been away from our congregation for a little while, many of us remember the family and were delighted to hear Karen's good news when she and Paul got engaged at the end of last year. They will be living in east Belfast and met at Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian during covid. Karen had moved back to NI in 2019 and Paul moved back in 2020. Karen is working in Musgrave as a physio and Paul works for Microsoft.



Sarah and Gareth loving their festive wedding just before Christmas



Gemma and Steven celebrating their spring wedding.



Katherine and Gavin were married on Feb 29th - certainly a date that should be easy to remember!!

Community Fellowship



On Monday 11th March 40 members and friends gathered for our community spring season **"Out for lunch"** with a St Patricks Day theme, stew and apple pie.

After a delicious lunch (which included an extra treat of Adrian's birthday cake) our guests, Jim and Ena Perry lead us in praise and Jim shared his testimony emphasising the power of prayer.



Our summer season **"Out for Lunch"** will be on Monday 17th June 2024 so put the date in your diary now!

Trinity Women Summer Lunch Outing
25th May at 12.30 at The Secret Garden Dundonald.
Anyone wishing to go can speak to Trish or email office@trinityboardmills.org



Need to know something ?

Contact us

office@trinityboardmills.org
secretary@boardmills.org
comms@trinityboardmills.org
youth@trinityboardmills.org

and check out our website
www.trinityboardmills.org