



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 Connections Magazine for Easter 2026!

It has been a busy year so far for us at Trinity as we have now progressed in our vacancy and been given leave to call a new Minister to our congregation. There is still much to be done, but we are grateful to our Kirk Session, our Convenor Church and the Linkage Committee for getting us to this point as well as all the prayerful support we have had from our own folk and beyond.

Exciting times ahead - watch this space!



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 those who have lost loved ones and we especially think of the family circle and friends of David Scott at this time.

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.



A decorative border at the top of the page features several pink tulips with green stems and leaves, arranged in a slightly curved line across the width of the page.

From the Manse

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:18-19)

Hello Trinity Boardmills,

As I sit to write this—not from your manse, but from my desk in First Comber’s manse—I am mindful of the unusual season we continue to share together.

For two and a half years now, you have been without a settled minister of your own. That is no small thing. It has, in many ways, felt like a wilderness journey: a time marked by uncertainty, waiting, and, at times, weariness. And yet, as we reflect in the light of Isaiah’s words, we are reminded that wilderness seasons are never wasted in the purposes of God.

The Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah to a people who knew all about long seasons of waiting and wondering. And yet, into that uncertainty comes a clear and hopeful promise: *“See, I am doing a new thing!”*

Not merely a continuation of what has been, but something fresh, something shaped by God’s purposes and God’s timing. That is the word I believe is for you as a congregation at this time.

For this has indeed been a long road—but it has also been a necessary road. In ways we may not fully yet understand, God has been at work among you: refining, strengthening, and preparing.

Wilderness seasons often strip away what is not essential, helping us to rediscover what truly matters—our dependence on the Lord, our love for one another, and our calling as His people in this place.

Now, however, we begin to see signs of change—green shoots of new life breaking through the ground. Recently, permission has been granted for you to call a new minister. That is a significant and encouraging step forward, and one that should fill the congregation with both gratitude and anticipation. The process ahead will require patience still, but it is a clear indication that the Lord is leading you into a new chapter.

Alongside this, there are also very tangible expressions of that “new thing” taking shape. The existing manse is in the process of being sold, and plans are underway for the building of a new manse! These are not merely practical matters—they are signs of hope and investment in the future. They speak of a congregation looking ahead, preparing the way for the minister whom God will call to serve among you.

The hope is that a new minister may be appointed before the end of 2026. That may still feel some distance away, but it is important to remember that God’s timing is always perfect. He is already at work—not only here among you, but also in the life of the man He is preparing to come. Even now, though you do not yet know who that will be, but the Lord does.

Isaiah’s words also carry a gentle challenge: “Do you not perceive it?” It is possible, even in the midst of change, to remain so focused on what has been that we miss what God is doing now.

There is a natural tendency to look back—to remember how things once were, or to measure the present against the past. But the Lord calls us instead to lift our eyes and to look forward with faith.

This does not mean forgetting your history or undervaluing what has gone before. Rather, it means trusting that the same God who has been faithful in the past is continuing His work in new and sometimes unexpected ways. The “new thing” He is doing will still be rooted in His unchanging character and His enduring promises.

As you move into this next phase, prayer remains absolutely central. I would encourage you to continue praying earnestly for the minister whom God is preparing. Pray that He would guide and shape him, that He would make His calling clear, and that, in His perfect timing, He would bring him to you.

At the same time, please continue to pray for your Kirk Session. They carry significant responsibility in this process, and they need wisdom, unity, and discernment. Pray that they would be guided not by human preference alone, but by a deep sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

And pray also for yourselves as a congregation—that you would remain faithful, hopeful, and open to what God is doing. This season of vacancy has not been a pause in your calling. You are still the church here, called to worship, to witness, and to serve.

As I write from my own manse, it is a privilege to walk alongside Trinity Boardmills in this time—and it has been an interesting year walking along with you in this wilderness season. Though I may not be based among you, I have seen enough to know that there is much to be thankful for and also much to be hopeful about!

“See, I am doing a new thing!”

May you not only hear those words—but truly perceive them, trust them, and rejoice in them.

Yours in Christ,
Grant.



SUMMER CAMP

SAVE THE DATE



Monday - Friday

3rd - 7th August 2026

1.30pm - 4pm - Primary Age
7pm - 9pm - Teens



youth@trinityboardmills.org



www.trinityboardmills.org



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Killaney Football Pitch



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**Watch our social media and website
for updates nearer the time!**

As part of the Linkage Committee that our Kirk Session took a delegation to in February this year, the Rev Jim Stothers opened the proceedings giving a brief history of our congregations' presence in Boardmills. He has very kindly let us bring it to a wider audience now, and it makes for some very interesting reading.

Trinity, Boardmills

The history here could keep us for an hour or two, so I'll present a very condensed version. Boardmills was originally a Secession congregation established in 1749 when Andrew Black was installed. He was present at the formation of the first Burgher Presbytery constituted in Ireland. Secession seems to have been a prevailing feature here, for in 1809 there was division among the Seceders over the Regium Donum, and that division was manifested in Boardmills. Those who favoured their minister taking the revised grant wanted John Sturgeon and a call to him was signed by 138 persons, with 91 members dissenting. Confusingly up to this time the congregation was most often called Killaney, Boardmills becoming the official name in 1819. The party opposed to the Regium Donum seceded from the seceders (!) and formed Second Boardmills. The last minister of the single-point charge was Walter Kerr who was ordained in 1933 and served for 40 years. I was taken aback to recall that he was Clerk of the Down Presbytery when I was ordained in 1st Comber in 1980! The average length of active service of the six ministers of this congregation as a single point charge was 37 years, a truly remarkable and unusual feature.

Second Boardmills

Following the division over the Regium Donum, a petition was sent to the Glasgow Presbytery of the Original Secession (Old Light Burgher) Synod in 1811, asking for "supply of sermon". This was granted and eventually John Shaw, a member of the congregation, was ordained in 1816. A church building had been erected in 1812, with the inscription above the entrance "For Christ's Free Men". His successor, John Downes, and the Kirk Session applied in 1851 to the Belfast Presbytery to be received by the General Assembly and a year later General Assembly agreed.

Killaney Cill Eanaigh the church of the marsh

When the congregation of First Boardmills joined the General Assembly in 1840 some members objected and seized the meeting-house. The congregation agreed to pay those leaving £350 if they resigned all claims to it. They in turn then used the money to build a new church within sight of the one they had left and it was opened as Killaney in 1846. Alas, the two congregations did not live in harmony and the two ministers held a public debate in First Boardmills Church in 1855, as to which party was in harmony with the original principles of the Secession. Each side claimed victory and published separate accounts of the wordy warfare. John Moody became minister in 1886. He succeeded in mollifying the mutual animosity, so much so that in 1924 a deputation from Killaney Secession Church asked the minister of 2nd Boardmills, Robert Kelso, to become minister of a united charge. He agreed and in June 1925, Killaney minister and congregation were received into the General Assembly. Mr. Moody retired to facilitate the union and Mr. Kelso was installed as his successor.

2nd Boardmills and Killaney

The third minister of the joint charge was Harold Graham, a gifted evangelist who went on to become Magee Director of Christian Training. The final minister was Trevor Coburn, happily still with us and following his departure in 1974, the three congregations of 1st & 2nd Boardmills and Killaney formed a union, with George Simpson being installed in 1975. Three other ministries followed, and then the three congregations were amalgamated into one as Trinity, Boardmills in 2002. There have been three ministries since then, with the resignation of Richard Patton in 2023 being the reason you are seeking Leave to Call today.



Our Boys' Brigade is open to all boys whether members of the church or from our local community, schools etc.

Held in different age brackets on a Monday evening, there will be a selection of fun activities and sports, and also a strong emphasis on scripture, badgework to learn new skills, and drill.

At the end of the session, family and friends came to gether for a light supper and to enjoy demonstrations from the boys of some of the activities they had enjoyed throughout the year.

Keep an eye on our social media and website for when sessions will start again later in the year.

Our **"Out to Lunch"** events continue to be a popular time for any age group in our community who is available to come along and enjoy fellowship and great food.

Our next lunch will be held on 13 April at 12.30pm and Mr Gordon Wallace will bring items of praise.

Why not invite a friend or neighbour and come along and join us?





We are very fortunate to have some great old records from many years back for our churches which give a great insight into our history but they are old and fragile, so we have been delighted that recently the North of Ireland Family History Society have been able to take and digitise them so that we will have access to so much information for the future.

We get a surprising amount of enquiries from families trying to trace their ancestors and it is so lovely when we can fill in some detail to their family trees.

The North of Ireland Family History Society is a registered charity (NIC106071) with particular reference to the nine counties of Ulster. For over 40 years the Society has been promoting and encouraging the private and public study of family history, genealogy, heraldry and local history.

Our membership is worldwide and the Society has 9 Branches throughout Northern Ireland, and a dedicated Research Centre at Newtownabbey. All the members who work for the Society are volunteers, and we do not undertake paid research. Our members worldwide all have roots somewhere in Ulster and are searching for their Irish ancestors.

If you have or are trying to trace your ancestry you will be aware of how valuable a resource Church records are. Whether baptisms, marriages, or burials if the Church has a graveyard. More so if the Church records predate civil registration for the island of Ireland, ie, births and deaths from 1864, non-Catholic marriages from 1845, and Catholic marriages from 1864. The Civil Registration records are free to search up to 1921 for Northern Ireland on www.irishgenealogy.ie

The Society was delighted when your Committee members granted us permission to transcribe Trinity Boardmills Presbyterian Church records.

The present Trinity Church has an interesting history, for many years there were three Presbyterian congregations within close proximity in Boardmills. 1st Boardmills was established in 1749, and 2nd Boardmills was formed in 1811. Meanwhile, when 1st Boardmills joined the General Assembly in 1840, some members were not happy, so the usual happened, they built their own church in 1846, calling it Killaney which also has a graveyard attached to it.

2nd Boardmills and Killaney were united in 1925, and in 1974 the three congregations came together. In January 2002 they were amalgamated into a single congregation named, Trinity Presbyterian Church and it has been growing ever since.

The Society has scanned all the early baptisms, marriages and burials, and these are in the process of being transcribed by our members. The Church will receive a copy of the typed-up records and the digital images, which will be a backup of the originals and reduces handling of the original registers which become fragile over time.

So why do we transcribe baptisms records after Civil Registration began in 1864? The birth of a child can be registered with no name, but a baptism almost always records a name, and often there are additional notes in the church register, such as a relationship, emigration or a father's name which is not recorded in Civil Registration.

Are you a McKEE or EDGAR?

Have you found the headstone of HUGH McKEE of Poagsburn, son of John and grandson of Hugh McKee who, with Robert EDGAR joined the Army of King William the third in Scotland. Fought at the Battle of the Boyne and settled in Lisbane 1690. Born 1734 Died 1819.

This information appears on the headstone in the graveyard. Headstones are a wonderful resource for the family historian.

Have you checked out the two War Memorials? Is your ancestor named in either one? If you have any memorabilia belonging to those who served in the Great War or WWII, and are willing to share information, please contact Katie who will supply you with my contact details.

Our new website has a searchable database of all the surnames that are in our transcribed records, and members can request a 'lookup' if they can't visit the Research Centre in person. For more information on this, our Branches and our Library List see our website at www.nifhs.org.

We always welcome new members and are ready to help each other.

Charlotte Murtagh Belfast Branch Volunteer
Sandra Ardis Transcribing Project Administrator



We are indebted to Charlotte and Sandra for carrying out all this work for us and look forward to being able to search our records so much more easily!



Our Girls' Brigade at Trinity is a very active company with Explorers from age 3 up!

This is a welcoming and inclusive group for girls in our community to enjoy fun and games together as well as learning scripture based teaching and forge long lasting friendships.



Family and friends gather at the end of the year to share some insights from what the girls have been involved in and this year showcased some super talents and abilities and probably the first time there were some four legged visitors appearing!

GB is held on Monday nights at the McKee Hall beside the Church building.



Prayer, Praise and PJs

Our Trinity Youth Pulse Weekend began on Friday evening of the 20th of February with the long (and bumpy) journey up to Roast Trevor - sorry, I mean Rostrevor. We unpacked all our stuff, and then re-packed all our stuff to switch rooms because there weren't enough beds in the girls room!

Our speaker over the weekend was Ellis Hanna and we were so encouraged by the wisdom he prepared to share with us, all about Prayer. On Friday night, we got to know him a bit better as Louise interviewed him. Throughout the whole weekend we were also able to enjoy some worship led by Andrew and Caleb on guitars.

We then had a good bit of free time to catch up with each other and play some table tennis and pool, and it wouldn't be a Trinity Youth Weekend without Mario Kart too. We had a delicious supper of hot dogs (special request from Daniel) and then we played a big game of Empires which proved to be an excellent ice breaker.



The next morning, we got up and got ready for a delicious breakfast before heading out for a walk along the coast. Ellis then gave us a short talk all about the first half of the Lord's Prayer. We thought about the 5 'Ws' of prayer - Who, what, when, where and why we pray. After lunch, we headed into Newcastle although the weather wasn't looking promising... Louise prayed that it would dry up for us and the Lord answered!



We had a big game of Hunt The Leader in our teams. We ran around the main road in Newcastle, looking in shops, cafes, bus stops and benches! Ben, who was dressed as a litter picker, remarked that he has "never been smiled at more in his life". So there you have it, if you want to be popular; be a litter picker!

When we got back, we had pizza for dinner in our PJs. Ellis shared another insightful talk on the second half of the Lord's Prayer, thinking about how to pray. Our evening activity - Taskmaster. The three teams: 'The hungry hungry caterpillars', 'The not so little Lidl gluten-free bakery section' and 'The Zookeepers' went head to head in a fearsome battle to see who could please Mike the Taskmaster the most. In the end, the Zookeepers prevailed.

We woke up (just about) on Sunday morning to a freshly cooked breakfast of beans and eggs on toast. Then we went into Rostrevor town to do a photo challenge! The leaders had us proposing to strangers, recreating movie scenes and dancing in shops... You can imagine some of the looks we got!

When we came back, we had a mini service which the youth organised together. We shared verses, highlights from the talks and even put Rosi and Mike on the hot seat. We encouraged and challenged each other in our small groups after each talk as well as getting a chance to pray together. Finally we got packed up and headed home, but not before a much needed stop for some Brennan's ice cream!

As a Youth, we want to thank the leaders for all the hard work they put into the incredible weekend and we also want to thank all the people from the church who provided us with food! It is a weekend that will be remembered very fondly!



Some beautiful flowers decorating the Church for our Easter Service. We are grateful for all those that supply flowers throughout the year and especially at times of celebration



What a wonderful year of events Trinity Women has had!

Our theme of God...Ever Present based on Psalm 46 v 1, 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble', has been the basis for our times of gathering together. When God's people join together there is always blessing. In September we explored God Ever Present in the work and life of our church and the missions we support. A prayer page was drawn up with contributions from all the church ministries and we met to listen to Angie, Louise, Silvana and to hear about the work of Rachel and Anna further afield. What a joy to join together in prayer for all that is happening around us.

In October we thought about how God is Ever Present: Wherever We Are. Three precious ladies from our church family, who physically cannot attend Trinity, shared how their faith has strengthened them in everyday life despite various health challenges. Friends read their words for us and their witness and honesty spurred us on to appreciate and be aware how the Lord walks with us through life with all its up and downs.

When November came Angela had organised a very special community event. Local families joined and shared in our WW2 Remembrance Night. Listening to the memories of those who were part of the WWs, including wars less talked about, and seeing photos and memorabilia brought their personal stories to life.

We all tried our hand at hand bells to herald in Christmas and we journeyed through God's plan for the birth of a Saviour, Emmanuel, from the Old Testament right through to the New. Lots of laughter was heard as the bells rang in many a wrong place!

By February we were ready to try our hand at some craft with local artist Sandra Shaw.

Her theme was God Ever Present: In Joy and Pain. Sandra shared how God has guided her from teaching into her work as an artist and how he has been supplying her with wisdom and strength along life's journey.

The ladies had fun releasing their creativity and painted a notebook cover.



Wearable Truth *the story*

'Don't ever forget kindness and truth. Wear them like a necklace. Write them on your heart as if on a tablet'

Proverbs 3 v 3

Wearable Truth is a jewellery, clothing & accessories brand founded by Melanie Bond. Available on our website and at selected stockists including Melanie Bond Boutique, 5 Bridge Street, Dromore.

made with meaning

We are on a mission to offer hope by bringing timeless truth into your everyday life. As you wear our pieces, you and those around you will be encouraged and uplifted.

made for you

Our jewellery is designed and created locally, incorporating traditional typed lettering with wooden & crystal elements. As well as our collection staples, we offer a bespoke service which is ideal for gifting.





Desserts and fashion hit the hall in March with Melanie Bond.

She set up a little boutique and fashion show whilst explaining what her Wearable Truth brand is all about. Melanie seeks to bring hope by, 'bringing timeless truth into your everyday life.' She clings to the Bible and the truth to be found within its pages and shares that hope with those she meets and creates for.

We were blessed to hear about the work of Deaconess Heather McCracken during our PW service. She and her team of chaplains provide a vital ministry within the local hospitals. They support so many in such difficult situations. The importance of having someone stop a while, listen and pray was highlighted to all of us.

Isn't it amazing how God creates each one of us uniquely with a different skill set? Yet, he can use each one of us to strengthen and encourage each other through meeting and prayer. We can remind each other that our God really is Ever Present as we journey on.

We love to celebrate along with our Church families and we have had another safe arrival !

At the beginning of December 2025 little Joshua Jonah Levi arrived, making Emily a very happy big sister and bringing much joy to all the family circle.



When we are asked if our facilities can be used for a community based project or event, we are always delighted when we can make this work. This year it has been a pleasure for our field to be used by Nature Tots to encourage our youngest little ones to enjoy being outside. Abbi explains how this works and the benefits

Since September Nature Tots has been using the sports pitch at Killaney Hall to run outdoor sensory play classes for babies and toddlers.

The sessions have been very popular and we have had people travelling from all over to attend them. It has been lovely to meet lots of parents, grandparents and children who enjoy spending time outside even in the cold Autumn and Winter months.

Playing and spending time outside is so beneficial for children and it really promotes their holistic development. Each week we have a nature based theme and the sensory trays are filled with coloured rice, straw, dried beans, soil and many other things. The children love to get stuck in and play enthusiastically at all the areas. The weekly favourite is always the water station where lots of pouring and mixing is carried out.



Nature Tot sessions are a great way to meet new people and connect with parents who have a shared love of the outdoors. The sessions are very relaxed and laid back. The children are so engaged in their play that parents and grandparents often have time to step back and chat for a bit.



As a teacher and forest schools teacher I really love facilitating children playing outside. I have really enjoyed the weekly sessions and my own children have also benefitted from taking part. I am very thankful for the opportunity to use Trinity Boardmills facilities to make this possible.

If you are interested in finding out more about Nature Tots, you can follow @naturetotsni on instagram and Facebook. If you would like to sign up for the second Spring term after Easter please email naturetotsni@gmail.com for more details.



SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

MONDAY 15TH - THURSDAY 18TH JUNE



@trinityboardmills



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office@trinityboardmills.org

**Watch our social media and website
for updates nearer the time!**



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