

June 2023
Trinity Church Lancaster
www.trinitychurchlancaster.org.uk

'He has risen! He is not here' Mark 16:6

Last night we came to the end of Mark's gospel in our small groups. It has been a joy to read this again. The ending of Mark, at first sight, seems so abrupt, but the power of its witness is magnificent. Jesus has done everything he said he would, and in response, it is only right to tremble. This year we have had a range of people of all ages joining us on Wednesdays, new Christians, long-time Christians and those looking in. It has been so encouraging to see people discover the glory of Jesus and understand his priorities. We give thanks for those the Lord has brought to us this year.

Summer

The typical pattern for Trinity over the years since we started has been that many of our church family disappear over the summer months - students return home, and our core team take holidays. However, this last year we only had four new students but many more of other ages join us. In fact, there are new Christians and people seeking who are hungry for us to continue with our bible study program through the summer. Please pray that we will serve them well as we meet through the summer. Pray for our core team as they adjust to the needs of a growing church. Pray for our Church family that they will welcome new people and be adaptable.

Outreach

We have been looking at the upper room discourse in John's gospel on Sundays. All of God's word is useful for teaching etc., but it seems that this series has proved to be very helpful for the people who have joined us, both non-Christians and some who have come from quite muddled Church backgrounds. Pray that we will continue to unite at the foot of the cross and that those coming who do not yet profess faith will meet with the risen Lord.

Jacob, our minister in training, has been going into the local prison and reading the bible with a group of men. One of those men (on release) and his partner are joining us and taking their first steps in following Jesus. Please pray for K & C that they will know the power of the gospel for salvation. Please pray that the authorities will allow a Christianity Explored group to begin on the main wing of the prison.

Jacob is meeting with individuals who he has contacted through street evangelism. Please pray for him as he faithfully reaches out. Pray he will have wisdom regarding how best to follow up and where to invest his time. Thank the Lord for him and his wife, Beth, who work hard for the gospel. Beth supports the teenage girls in our church family and helps run the CU at the local Girls' grammar school. They are extraordinarily hospitable. Pray that the Lord will sustain them.

This year rather than running many regular events, we have tried to bring friends to social groups and build on those relationships. There have been BBQs and various activities which people have joined, from climbing to badminton to a book group. We have been encouraged that friends and family who are not yet Christians have started to come along regularly on Sundays after they got to know others in the church family. These things also helped us to invite people to the events we did run.

Building up

Martin carries the main preaching load. Pray for him as he works week by week to prepare and preach. Pray that he will be refreshed this summer - in July, he has four Sundays when he is not preaching - pray that he can use that time well. Pray for Jacob as he preaches through 2 Peter in July. Pray that our preachers will faithfully study God's word and proclaim it clearly.

September

We are beginning three new bible study groups over different evenings in the Autumn. These groups will meet in various homes. Please pray that this serves the Church well and enables growth. Pray for those who will be leading for the first time. We will begin the Autumn studying 2 Timothy and then Titus.

Partnership

Thank the Lord for the partnership we have with Holy Trinity Burton-in-Kendal and Wellfield Church in Leyland. We give thanks to Graham Burrows and Mark Simpson, who serve us as trustees. Pray for them as they consider their responses to the current situation in the Church of England.

Pray for our partnership with Burton as we share Lego resources and support one another's events.

Pray for Karen as she juggles ministry within Trinity and without - Northern Women's Convention has grown to three conferences - Manchester, Leeds and Stockton-on-Tees. She has responsibilities for women in AMiE as director of women's ministry and other responsibilities with Proclamation Trust, ReNew and Word Alive.

Faithful perseverance

We are so grateful for all those who serve in our Church family. Please pray that we will all continue to rejoice in the gospel and follow Christ as faithful disciples.

We value your partnership with us in prayer.

Martin and Karen Soole