



WEDNESDAY, 03 DECEMBER 2025

## TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"We would see Jesus and be transformed into His Likeness"*

Dear Friends,

I had a weekend off last weekend to spend time with my family. Like my last weekend off in September, we went camping. As you might imagine, we were a bit nervous considering all the rain. Driving to the campsite on Thursday, the rain began to fall heavier and heavier. With 5 minutes to arrival it was pouring with rain. Not an ideal situation to put up a tent. Knowing that there were caravans on site, we enquired about the possibility of staying the night in the caravan. Gratefully, there was a caravan available and we were able to remain relatively dry for the evening.



We woke up early on Friday morning and, while there was a gap in the rain, set up our tent. We managed to get mostly set up before the pouring rain set in again. At least we were dry under the awning of the tent. The rain didn't dampen our spirits, because where there is rain, there is mud. Mud play is a wonderful way to be creative and have fun. The skies cleared up into the evening and the weather was lovely for the remainder of our camping.

Considering this wet experience, you may wonder why we would want to leave the comfort of our home for the wilderness. To be honest, I did ask the question to Caryn while we were driving, "What are we doing? Should we just turn back now?" But I am glad we didn't. These experiences in the wilderness open avenues for connection, making memories, refreshment and healing of the soul.



Reading the Journey with Jesus blog, which reflects on the lectionary readings each week, reiterated, for me, the value of immersing ourselves in nature. The author shares a story about a man who was their tour guide in the region by the Dead Sea called Wadi al-Hasa. This was similar to John the Baptist's home territory, the wilderness beyond the Jordan. This man's appearance reminded her of John the Baptist,

who we read about in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 3:1-2. John spent his time in the wilderness ministering to people and proclaiming the Kingdom of heaven drawing near.

The story of the tour guide captured my attention. Having experienced a traumatic event during his teenage years, his worldview was shattered. His dream of becoming a judge was interrupted, his faith faltered and the future became very uncertain. A chance invite from some friends, some years later, to go 'camping in the wilderness' had a significant impact on his life. Having never gone camping before, he had no idea what to expect or what to bring with him. It turned out that they were going hiking and had to carry everything they needed. This is a much greater wilderness experience than what my family did over the weekend.

What he experienced is that the wilderness did something within him to help him begin healing and set him on a path which led to helping children who had been traumatized by the war in Syria and were now refugees in Jordan. To read further go to the blog at <https://journeywithjesus.net/essays/4031-a-voice-in-the-wilderness>.

The message which Matthew tells us John the Baptist proclaimed was, "Turn your lives around (or 'repent')! Because here comes the Kingdom of Heaven!" The Greek word used is *metanoieite*. There are numerous translations of what this word means, beyond the often translated 'repent' (which might carry a connotation of 'to be sorry again'). One attempt at a summary of John's *metanoieite*-baptism message emphasizes the work we need to do: "*Within*, one must change one's mind and heart about what is important in life and then change one's *outward* life accordingly." (Meier, 'Marginal Jew') Another describes the response to an encounter: "it means the radical recognition of God" (Gnilka) resulting in a change of mind.

From my experience, the wilderness offers an opportunity to encounter God and ourselves in a way that puts into focus those things which are important in life. Nature helps me to have a greater awareness of the presence of God, to change within, to heal and to embrace a renewed Kingdom living.

With love,

Iain



When we arrived back from our camping we decided to decorate our house on the first Sunday in Advent. Caryn prepared an advent calendar with different experiences/activities each day instead of sweets. On Monday morning, the activity was to unwrap a Christmas story book which they wrapped last year. In this picture I am reading the Christmas story book they unwrapped.

Speaking of decorating for advent, we would like to decorate the sanctuary this Sunday after worship. Please consider joining us.



(By Iain Kemp)

For the past few years, this song has been one of my favourites for worship, celebrating Jesus Christ coming to earth and declaring that he is present in our lives today. "Christmas is all about the Father's love for us."

"Jesus is Here" – by Travis Cottrell - <https://youtu.be/BYMM4VOBh1M?si=SWQob9rFM62EbFYR>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/1j7z8YiXsrHn8id3Ursu0C?si=6cb7e75ae65d439c>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/song/jesus-is-here/1440224723>



**"Our Purpose is to GROW DEEPER! Grow deeper with God, in Relationships with each other, by creating Opportunities for ministry and as Witnesses."**

**Friday night Youth – Junior and Senior Youth on Fridays**  
**Check out the WhatsApp group or contact Ross for more information**  
**Last Sunday school for 2025 will be on 7 December**



Join Us for

TYA's final event of 2025

# PRAISE PARTY

Gather around the crackling flames, enjoy a boerewors roll and munch some roasted marshmallows. Come with open hearts and a desire to meet with God in worship.

**Saturday,  
06 December  
2025**

**6-9pm**

**R20 gets you  
a boerewors  
roll & a drink**

Send us your song requests by 20 November  
& we will try include them in the line up!



2026

STARTING FEB

# TRINITY PRESBY

## CONFIRMATION

IF YOU ARE 16 OR OLDER (OR YOUR  
CHILD IS) AND INTERESTED IN  
JOURNEYING WITH THE IDEA OF  
CONFIRMING YOUR FAITH

*Please reach out to Ross or Iain*  
*0114537729*

### **Staff on leave**

**Please note the following:**

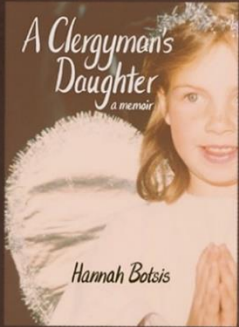
**Felicity will be on leave from 9 – 17 December 2025**

**Mxolisi will be on leave from 19 December 2025 to 6 January 2026**

**Iain will be on leave from 27 December – 4 January 2026**

**Ross will be on leave from 2 – 6 January 2026**

Please join us for a book discussion of

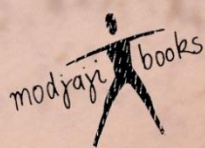


*A Clergyman's Daughter*  
a memoir  
By Hannah Botsis

"A wholesome, spiky, comforting, challenging and very funny memoir about the extraordinariness of the ordinary." - Helen Moffett

Join us for a book discussion between George Marchinkowski, Lesley Masterson and Hannah Botsis about family, friendship and church life in South Africa. Tea, coffee and snacks will be served.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Saturday 6th December 2025  
10am for 10.30 - 11.30am  
RSVP hannah.botsis@gmail.com  
Books will be on sale.



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to go to either our Facebook or Instagram pages.




TRINITY\_PRESBY\_EDENVALE

# Giving

Please take note:  
EFT Payments  
We would like to ensure that the payments made to Trinity towards tithing, retiring offerings, food bags etc are allocated correctly. In order to do this, please would you ensure that the reference shown on your payment has the correct beneficiary.

For Tithing, please use the following methods:

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
STANDARD BANK  
CURRENT ACCOUNT  
NUMBER: 42 448 2088,  
BRANCH: 016 342

Zapper QR Code

