



WEDNESDAY, 07 JANUARY 2026

## TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Dear Friends,

A blessed and gracious New Year to you and your family. May the presence of our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ and our Holy Spirit be life giving through each joy and each challenge this year.

We are beginning the year with a new Preaching Series called "Letters to the Churches" from the book of Revelation. Lesley gave a lovely introduction to the series on Sunday. I want to share part of the introduction to the series in this letter, particularly for those who could not attend worship.

The Revelation was penned by the Apostle John when he was exiled, because of his testifying about God's word, the risen Jesus, on the Island of Patmos.

The type of literature is primarily apocalyptic, which really means revelation/unveiling. In it there are many images, symbols, allusions and metaphors to convey a message to God's people. Much of the book deals with the struggle between 'good' and 'evil' forces. Understandably so, since the church was experiencing great persecution at the time under the Roman empire. John's vision is to encourage the church to live with a sense of urgency and of worship in the face of struggle and persecution. John sees the Kingdom of God at work and evil being defeated amid their suffering.

So, we ought to keep in mind that the letter is written for 1st century Christians suffering under empire cult ideology. He is writing to real people under real circumstances of suffering. Was not the Evil One defeated in the victory of Christ? Then why is the church in retreat? Why are the people of God under vicious attack? How can such difficulties be called a blessing? John is writing to help believers interpret the times and persevere in their faith. His desire is to bring us into the presence of Jesus, believing and adoring. Eugene Peterson writes, "Worship shapes the human community in response to the living God." Worship in this context is not only about singing songs and praying, it refers to the whole of our living.

John was worshiping "in the spirit on the Lord's day" (Rev. 1:10), when he heard a voice and had a vision. The voice tells him to write to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. He then encounters a person whose brilliance, magnificent power and glory, causes him to "fall at his feet as though dead" (Rev. 1:17). It is the Risen Jesus Christ, the first and the last, the living one, and He offers a hand to lift him up and reassures him that he does not have to be afraid. Jesus tells him what he wants to say to the churches and John writes it down.

The letters aim to awaken the church to the reality of their circumstance and who they are or ought to be as the church. There are messages of encouragement, some of reproof and some of challenge. As we explore these letters, my hope is that we will keep in mind these two questions:

How will we be awakened as we explore what the spirit was saying to these churches?

What is the Spirit saying to us in our circumstances today?

With love and awe-filled gratitude,

Iain

I am grateful to all who assisted with leading worship while I was on leave. Thank you! Here are a few pics from our time away with family in Drakensberg.



*On a hike to Sterkspruit falls*



*Celebrating Ella's Birthday*



*A walk on a rainy day close to the campsite*



*Sunset after a storm*

P.S. On Sunday morning, the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, in response to the church's monthly financial shortfall, a congregation member, Teresa, shared a creative and heartfelt initiative called #Coffee - a small way each of us can make a meaningful difference. Here is her testimony as she shared it:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/fz6t6nITurM?si=5WgqH6Oe0ZOg7yaP&t=3877> .

Here is her idea:

by giving up one small luxury each month — perhaps a cup of coffee, a snack outing, or another treat that costs around R200 — we can collectively help close the financial gap. For instance, skipping a weekly R50 coffee adds up to R200 a month, which can then be donated to the church.

You can participate by setting up an automatic monthly deposit or by bringing your contribution in an envelope marked #Coffee. This tag helps us track the initiative's progress.

It's about sharing joyfully to support our community. If 200 people give R200, we could raise R40,000 together! Let's invest in keeping our church strong, our ministries active, and our lights shining.

May God bless this effort and everyone who takes part in it.



(By Iain Kemp)

In a blog (<https://www.stpaulsbanbury.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=276580>) which shares the story behind the song this week, the author writes: "Is He Worthy?" is my attempt to celebrate Jesus's victory over death. In Revelation 5, we encounter one of the most awe-inspiring images of who Jesus truly is and what He has accomplished for us and all creation. The prophet John weeps bitterly because no one can be found worthy to break the seal and open the scroll. Then, almost quietly, Jesus appears—a Lion and a Lamb—ascending the throne and revealing His glory to angels, archangels, elders, and, most astonishingly, to you and me. At that moment, all of heaven bursts into song.

*“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”  
Revelation 5:9-10 (ESV)*

This song continues to help me to enter into an attitude of worship, becoming aware of the presence of Jesus.

“Is He Worthy?” – performed by Chris Tomlin (Written by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive) -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c6pl6CaiD0>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/4E43YlwUlpyDJlxcMjt0S7?si=f94c35b86ad04c78>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/song/is-he-worthy/1450438833>



## REFLECTION ON THEOLOGY MODULE

### SINGAPORE

During our time in Singapore, we had a scavenger hunt and were grouped into teams of three. I was grouped with Cingno and Sharon, who are from Myanmar and Kenya respectively. It was quite competitive, to say the least, with Jayden, Priscilla, and Eddy forming one team, and Trevaughn, Laura, and Sam making up the other.

Our task was to take team group photos at various locations around Singapore. Along the way, we often joked with one another about not taking photos for our rival teams or beating them to certain destinations first.

We were required to take pictures at 22 different destinations during our seven-day stay in Singapore. One of the required photos was to be taken with a CWM staff member.

Our group had grown quite close to Aunty Amelia and Aunty Vicki, who were the CWM staff members responsible for TIM. However, the instructions clearly stated that we were not allowed to take a picture with Aunty Amelia. On the day we visited Singapore Life Church, we left the hotel together with Aunty Vicki. Realising this was an opportunity, we had to think quickly and decided to take a picture with her instead. Because we were comfortable with her and knew we would only be visiting the CWM office later in the week, this felt like a practical and wise decision that helped us keep up with the scavenger hunt requirements.



While travelling on the MRT (Mass Rapid Transit)—a fast and efficient public rail system that serves as the main mode of transportation across Singapore—we came across a sign written in multiple languages, which was one of the requirements for the hunt, warning commuters to take caution when wearing soft rubber shoes. By that point, we were exhausted. Earlier that day, we had attended a workshop on CliftonStrengths, focusing on how we can use our strengths within our churches and how to grow in areas of weakness. Despite the fatigue and the competitive edge of the scavenger hunt,



there was a sense of shared joy and unity. We even took photos together on the MRT and on an escalator as a whole group of nine, capturing moments of togetherness in the midst of a busy schedule.

**Working together as a team at certain points during the scavenger hunt highlighted how important collaboration is, especially when people come from different cultures and backgrounds.** Each of us brought something unique to the group—whether it was problem-solving, encouragement, humour, or awareness of details.

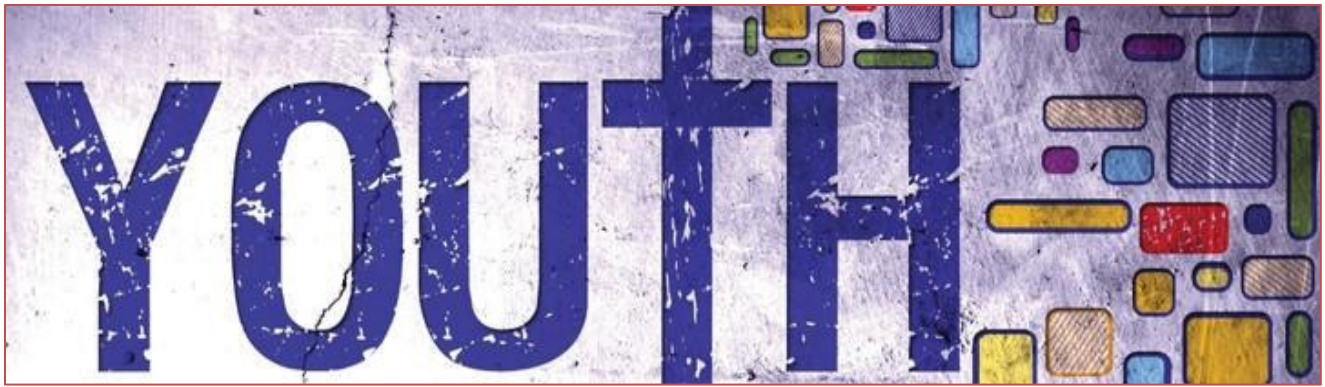


The scavenger hunt reminded me that teamwork is not about one person carrying the load, but about everyone contributing what they have for a common goal. When we communicated well and supported one another, tasks felt lighter and more enjoyable.

This experience also resonates deeply with life and mission. **Mission is never meant to be done alone.** Just as our team had to rely on trust, flexibility, and mutual respect, mission work requires us to walk alongside others, often across cultural and national boundaries. At times, plans change, instructions feel limiting, or exhaustion sets in, but it is in those moments that teamwork becomes most meaningful. Learning to listen, adapt, and act together reflects the very nature of the body of Christ.

Ultimately, the scavenger hunt (even though we did not complete the tasks) became a lived lesson in community, perseverance, and shared purpose. Amidst the chaos, tiredness, and competitiveness, there was laughter, bonding, and growth. These moments reminded me that **mission is not only about reaching destinations or completing tasks, but about how we journey together.** When we move forward as a team, supporting and valuing one another, we reflect God's intention for unity in diversity, both in life and in mission.





**“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**  
**Youth and Sunday School start up from 16 January**

 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**

## Trinity Seniors Social Save the Date – 12 February 2026

### It's a New Year for Seniors

This is a wonderful time to reconnect, share updates about our lives, and delight in each other's company once again.

### Activities

- We're fortunate to have Vivienne guiding us through chair exercises
- and Ian enriching our gatherings with his beautiful background music.



Please note, the March meeting will have a slightly different format. WATCH THIS SPACE!

## SENIORS CHAIR CLASS

EVERY THURSDAY AT 09:45  
STARTING 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, in the small hall

- Fun and energising class led by Viv Williamson, a certified Pilates instructor.
- Fee R50 per class
- **FREE** chair exercises during the Seniors Social every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month!



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



# 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

