

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

Magherahamlet Parish Church



June 2025



Rector:	The Revd Canon Robert Howard 15 Ballykeel Road, Hillsborough BT26 6NW Tel: 028 9263 8218 E-mail: jrobert.howard@btinternet.com Website: www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org
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The Rector writes.....

My dear Parishioners

As we journey through life, we often find ourselves on a quest for knowledge, seeking to understand the world around us, the complexities of human existence and the divine nature of God. This pursuit of knowledge is both exhilarating and humbling for, as we delve deeper into the vast ocean of understanding, we come to realize the profound truth encapsulated in the paradoxical statement: *The more we know, the more we know we don't know.*

The Bible, our ultimate source of wisdom and guidance, reflects this paradox in numerous passages. A verse from Ecclesiastes poignantly captures the essence of our intellectual journey: *For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.* As we accumulate knowledge, we become acutely aware of the limitations of our understanding and the mysteries that remain beyond our grasp.

One of the profound implications of this paradox is the cultivation of humility. The realisation that our knowledge is limited fosters a sense of humility, reminding us that we are finite beings, dependent on the infinite wisdom of God. In Proverbs 3:5-6 we read: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.* Trusting in God's wisdom rather than our own understanding is an act of humility and faith.

Of course, Jesus himself exemplifies this humility in his earthly ministry. Despite being the incarnate Word of God, Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to pray and seek his Father's guidance. In Philippians 2:5-8 Paul urges us to adopt the same mindset as Jesus, who *made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross.*

In the face of our limited understanding, faith becomes our anchor. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews defines faith as: *the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* Faith bridges the gap between our finite knowledge and the infinite wisdom of God. It enables us to trust in his divine plan and purpose, even when we cannot fully comprehend them.

While we acknowledge the limitations of our knowledge, we are also called to continue our pursuit of understanding. This pursuit of knowledge is a lifelong endeavour, and it is through this journey that we grow in our relationship with God and deepen our faith.

The paradox of '*The more we know, the more we know we don't know*' invites us to embrace humility, recognize the infinite wisdom of God and anchor our lives in faith. It is a call to trust in the Lord with all our heart, lean not on our own understanding and submit to God's divine guidance. In doing so, we will find peace in the midst of uncertainty and joy in the journey of discovering the boundless depths of God's wisdom.

With every blessing to you all,

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard



Congratulations...

...to Bert & Ruth Carlisle, Annahilt on the celebration of their 64th Wedding Anniversary

...to Lord Eames as he celebrates 50 years of being a Bishop. He was consecrated on St Columba's Day 9 June 1975 in St Columb's Cathedral, Derry. He served as Bishop of Derry and Raphoe until his translation to the Diocese of Down and Dromore in 1980. He became Archbishop of Armagh & Primate of All Ireland in 1986 where he served until his retirement in 2006

We continue to wish him well in his episcopal ministry and in his parliamentary roles as a member of the House of Lords.

Thank You...

...to Magherahamlet Badminton Club for recently organising and hosting a Coffee morning with a Cake and Plant Sale in support of Parish Funds and to all who supported the event in any way. The splendid sum of £1547.16 was raised.

In Memoriam

Donations to Parish Funds in lieu of Flowers in memory of Liz Anderson amounted to £820. We thank all who subscribed.

In consultation with the Family, the Select Vestry have allocated this sum to the provision of a Public Address System in the Parochial Hall. This has already proved a

most welcome and useful facility which is of benefit to many people.

REMEMBERING THE CORONATION

At the beginning of May we observed the second anniversary of the amazing spectacle of the Coronation of King Charles III, the first British monarch crowned in over 70 years.

Two years ago, the Coronation Service on Saturday 6 May 2023 was a wonderful mix of ancient tradition and modern additions. For many, one of the most moving moments was the greeting of the King into Westminster Abbey by a small choirboy and the reply of “I come to serve, not to be served.” What a perfect and simple phrase; one for us all to keep uppermost in our lives. On the eve of the Anniversary, We continue to keep King Charles in our prayers as he continues to develop his role, especially as he continues to be treated for serious illness.



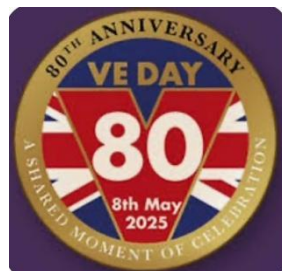
Prayers For the King

Lord God, in your power you provide for your people
and rule over them in love:
Grant to your servant Charles, our King
the spirit of wisdom and government,
that being devoted to you with his whole heart,
he may so wisely govern,
that during his reign your church may be protected,
and Christian devotion may continue in peace;
that so persevering in good works to the end,
he may by your mercy enter your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord God, the Ancient of Days,
You are sovereign over all your people;
Give to His Majesty, King Charles enduring wisdom and faith
in the service of the people of this land
and of you, his Lord and Master.
Grant that his faithful witness
may be to others a source of hope,
that they may come to know more fully
your Son Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

VE-DAY REMEMBERED

On 6 May, the Tuesday evening before VE Day there was a very memorable Family Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of this milestone. A vintage Tea Party and Entertainment took place in Magherahamlet Parochial Hall. The assortment of food was magnificent and included a very tasty and appropriately iced cake.



It was very much an All-Age occasion. For the first time in some years Dunmore Silver Band performed in our Parish and splendidly entertained us. There was a great selection of music associated with the Second World War years as well as other songs and pieces. The weather outside was lovely and the young people enjoyed playing games outside.

At the close of the evening the Rector expressed appreciation of the Band, all who had prepared the Hall and Grounds, all who contributed to and served the Tea and others who had helped in any way. As it was the anniversary of the Coronation, all joined in singing the National Anthem before departing.

A very special event took place in the Church of the Ascension on Wednesday 7 May. The 80th Anniversary of VE-Day was marked by a Commemoration in Words and Music led by Baillie's Mills Accordion Band and Anahilt Primary School Choir. The Guest of Honour was The Mayor, Councillor Kurtis Dickson.

The Rector, Canon Robert Howard, conducted the Service and also preached.

The congregational hymns included 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven', 'I vow to thee my country', 'Put peace into each other's hands', 'God is our strength and refuge', 'Guide me O thou great Jehovah', 'Lord for the years your love has kept and guided', and 'Now thank we all our God'

The Band played The Longest Day, A Nightingale Sang, We'll meet again, There'll be blue birds over the white cliffs of Dover, Lili Marlene, In the mood, Wish me luck, It's a long way to Tipperary, Pack up your troubles, and Keep the home fires burning.

The School Choir sang a most appropriate Anthem 'Victory Day'.

There were Readings from Holy Scripture, Micah 4 v 1-4 God's promised time of peace, and 2 Corinthians 5 v 16-21 The call to be reconciled'. Other appropriate Readings included 'Extracts from Winston Churchill's speech of 8 May 1945 (read by The Mayor) and 'Letters from Loved Ones'.

There followed suitable Prayers of Intercession.

The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem after which a Celebratory Supper was served in the Parochial Hall which looked magnificent with various VE decorations. The Mayor cut a beautiful cake, which was appropriately iced in the patriotic colours. The young people present were presented with souvenir VE Day Book Markers.

The Mayor, in his capacity as First Citizen, spoke of the significance of VE Day for the City, Community, Nation, Commonwealth, and the Continent and Europe and beyond. .

The Rector brought the formal proceedings to a close thanking the Mayor for his presence and the City Council for their financial support; also the Band, the School Choir, the Organist Tim Howe, Colin Hassard who beautifully produced the Orders of Service and all who were involved in preparations for the Service and The Supper, including Patricia Halliday who was in correspondence with the City Council.

The 80th Anniversary of VE Day was very memorably celebrated in both our Parishes.

PRAYER WARRIOR

Do you have a concern or problem and would like someone to pray for you?

If so, contact the Rector who will be willing to help.

This is completely confidential and no details will be passed on to anyone else unless you want them to.

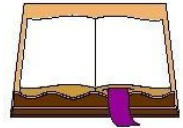
028 9263 8218



From the Parish Registers

HOLY BAPTISM

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'



Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

26 May 2025

Ruairi William, son of Richard and Jessica Brownlee

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

'In Christ shall all be made alive'

29 May 2025

Elizabeth (Beth) Hales (nee Humphries)

Following Service in the Church of the Ascension, interment of ashes took place in

adjoining Churchyard.

Church Services in the Parishes of Annahilt and Magherahamlet

'I was glad when they said to me: "Let us go to the house of the Lord"' Psalm 122 v1

Sunday 1 June

Sunday after Ascension Day

10.00

Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00

Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 8 June

Pentecost

10.00

Parish Communion

Annahilt

Service Sheets

Light refreshments afterwards in Parochial Hall

12.00

Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Service

Sheets

Sunday 15 June

Trinity Sunday

Father's Day

10.00 Children's Day Service, Holy Baptism & Prize Distribution

Annahilt

Service Sheets

12.00 Children's Day Service & Prize Distribution

Magherahamlet

Service Sheets

Sunday 22 June

Trinity I

10.00

Morning Prayer

Annahilt

12.00

Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

3.30

Evening Prayer

Annahilt

Service Sheets

with Legacurry LOL 164 in attendance

Preacher: The Revd Stanley Gamble

Rector of Killinchy

Sunday 29 June

St Peter's Day

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer & Litany	Magherahamlet

Sunday 6 July

Trinity III

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Parish Communion	Magherahamlet

Sunday 13 July

Trinity IV

10.00	Morning Prayer	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer	Magherahamlet

Fathers' Day, 15 June

On 15 June we celebrate fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, as Jesus came out of the water: 'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.' (Matthew 3:16,17).

What can we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, the role of fathers and our relationship with God?

The Father's presence

When Jesus was baptized, the Father made His presence real by the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to call God 'Daddy' (Abba, Galatians 4:6). God is with us and knows our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. In this way, Dads can relate to their



children.

The Father's love

The Father described His Son as 'beloved', who like us, is subject to His unconditional love. Dads should be constant in assuring their children of their love.

The Father's pleasure

The Father tells Jesus that He is 'well pleased' with Him. We also need to hear this, if we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. Fathers should use every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.

A Prayer for Fathers

Loving God, we thank you especially today
for our fathers,
for their love, care and protection,
for all they do that we may have
food, clothes and homes,
for play-times and holiday-times with them.

We remember the boys and girls who have no Father,
and ask that someone will look after them
and make them happy.

We thank you that you gave your Son Jesus Christ for us,
and we ask that we may be helped
lovingly to trust him as our Saviour,
joyfully to know you as our heavenly Father, and
gladly to live lives that please you,
by the help of your Spirit. **Amen.**



A Prayer for Children

Loving God,
your Son told his disciples to become like little children.
Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people.
May we respect their dignity that they may flourish in life,
following the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S DAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING

The Church Loyalty and Sunday School prize-giving will take place in Annahilt and Magherahamlet on Sunday 15 June. This year the Rector will be the preacher.

As well as acknowledging the attendance of our children both in Church and in Annahilt JAM Group and Magherahamlet Sunday School over the past year, it is also an opportunity to the Leaders / Teachers who have worked with dedication and commitment to pass on the Faith to the next generation.

We invite parents, grandparents, relatives and other parishioners to join us on Children's Day in support of our young people and those who lead their Activities.

Learn the Art of Contentment at Bible Week '25

Please plan to join us in August for this year's Diocesan Bible Week with pastor, speaker, and author Colin Smith. Colin has entitled his teaching series, *The Art of Contentment* - a topic that is sure to attract interest from Christians and non-Christians alike so invite your friends!

We'll be hosted by Hollywood Parish Church and the Bible Week will run from 26-29 August beginning each evening at 7.45pm.

What's in store

- Tuesday 26 August: The hellish sin of discontent (Jude v14-25)
- Wednesday 27 August: How to handle the blessing of God (1 Timothy 6:6-19)
- Thursday 28 August: Learning to be content (Philippians 4:4-13)
- Friday 29 August: Contented in Christ (Hebrews 13:1-6)

As well as inspiring teaching, the Bible Week includes worship and prayer ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity for clergy, leaders, and parishioners alike to be refreshed ahead of the busy autumn term.

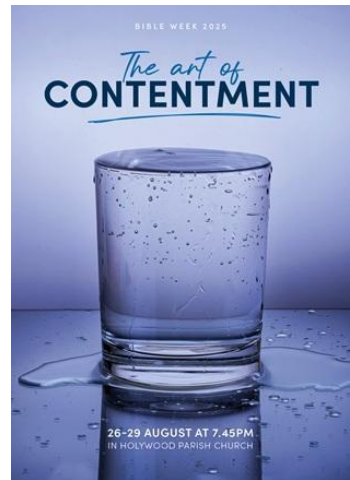
Our speaker

Colin Smith is President of Open the Bible and Pastor Emeritus of The Orchard church in northwest suburban Chicago. He can be heard daily on the radio broadcast, *Open the Bible*, and at openthebible.org. Colin is the author of many books, including *Fly Through the Bible*, *Heaven*, *How I Got Here*, and *Momentum: Pursuing God's Blessings Through the Beatitudes*.

Born in Edinburgh, Colin trained at the London School of Theology and was the Senior Pastor at Enfield Evangelical Free Church in London for 16 years before moving to The Orchard in 1996. In January 2025, Colin he stepped down as Senior Pastor to focus full-time on *Open the Bible*.

Come along!

26-29 August at 7.45pm in Hollywood Parish Church (St Philip & St James), 71 Church Road, Hollywood, BT18 9BX.



Flowers for the Churches

Annahilt

Magherahamlet



June

1	The Rector	The Rector
8	Mr & Mrs R Carlisle	Mrs L. Crompton
15		
22	Dr W & Mrs Chambers	
29		

Church Cleaning, Annahilt
Month

June

6-7	Mrs H Hill	Mr T Hill
13-14	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
20-21	Mrs J Guiney	Mrs H Cardosi
27-28	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman



July

4-5	Mrs L McCambley	Mrs E Harrison
11-12	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
18-19	Mrs E Crawford	
25-26	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
25-26	Mrs A Maxwell	Mr R Maxwell

August

1-2	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
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The number on the rota of volunteers who clean the Church of the Ascension has significantly declined. It would now be unviable only one couple have offered to clean the Church every 2nd week.

IT really would be very helpful if there were additional volunteers who would ease the burden on those who already faithfully fulfil this important role. If you would be willing to help, please contact the Rector (Tel 028 3263 8218) or the Secretary to the Vestry (Tel 028 9263 8269)



Dear Members

Annahilt Branch has concluded its activities for the present season.

Magherahamlet members are looking forward to their outing to Kilnamoo Castle on Saturday 28 June. If you have not already done so, please let Sally or Lyn know if you intend going.

We wish you all a refreshing summer break.

Sincerely

Beth, Esme, Elaine

Avril, Frances, Virginia

THE MARY SUMNER PRAYER

All this day, O Lord
Let me touch
As many lives as possible for thee;
And every life I touch,
Do thou by thy spirit quicken
Whether through the word I speak, The prayer I breathe, Or the life I live.
Amen.

THE MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord,
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union
as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and

support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Mothers' Union Midday Wave of Prayers June 2025

1-3 June: Johannesburg in South Africa; Kumi in Uganda;
Nsukka & Idoani in Nigeria; Derby in England and Madhya Kerala in India

4-6 June: Ibba in South Sudan; Maseno North in Kenya; Isiala-Ngwa & Ondo
in Nigeria; Fredericton in Canada and Amritsar in India

8-10 June: Yambio in South Sudan; Garissa in Kenya; Mbamili in Nigeria;
Hereford in England; Willochra in Australia and Thailand

11-13 June: Mahajanga in Madagascar; Mara in Tanzania; West Buganda in
Uganda; Kwoi in Nigeria; Newcastle in Australia and East Kerala in India

15-17 June: Bukavu in DR Congo; Nyahururu in Kenya; Gboko in Nigeria;
Portsmouth in England and New Guinea Islands in Papua New Guinea

18-20 June: Rejaf in South Sudan; Military Episcopate in Kenya; Doko &
Owo in Nigeria; Chelmsford in England and Jamaica & Cayman Islands

22-24 June: Rumonge in Burundi; Tabora in Tanzania; Kabba
& Bukuru in Nigeria; St Albans in England and Nagpur in India

25-27 June: Table Bay in South Africa; Rift Valley in Tanzania;
Evo & Ijebu in Nigeria; Adelaide in Australia and Taejon in South Korea

29-30 June: Eastern Zambia in Zambia; Mombasa in Kenya;
Gwagwalada & Ekiti West in Nigeria; Leicester in England and Temotu in
Solomon Islands

Annahilt Wednesday Club

In May the visiting speaker was local Councillor Mr Andrew Gowan who reflected on his year as Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh and his work as a local councillor. This gave those present a great insight to the work involved in these roles with many folks realising they were unaware of the extent of the work. Unless a councillor has reached

retirement from professional life, they generally also need to hold down full or part-time employment.

On 18th June there will be an “end of season” Tea Party with plenty of food, fun and games from 11am - 1pm. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Patricia on 07713 257691 or Violet Swarbrigg on 07866 914651, ideally by 15th June to give us a reasonable idea for catering purposes.

The Club will commence again on the third Wednesday of September when Rev Stanley Gamble will speak to us about time he spent in Cyprus. Further details in next month's magazine. An autumn programme has been arranged and will again include the Festive Lunch which was such a great success last year.

Annahilt Parish Bowling Club

Annahilt Parish Bowling Club had their end of season dinner and presentation of trophies at the beginning of May in The Mulberry Tree, Seaforde.

Joined by some former members, all enjoyed a delicious meal and plenty of craic around the table. The new season will commence in mid-September 2025.



Lunch Club

The next time we meet will be Friday 27 June in the Pheasant at the usual time of 12.30pm.

Subsequent Lunch Club meetings will take place on the following dates:

25 July

29 August

The Lunch Club is a very relaxed and enjoyable occasion, giving retired and semi-retired members an opportunity to connect with each other. If you would like the opportunity of enjoying a lunchtime meal in the company of established friends or perhaps some new ones, do come along. Please contact Violet Swarbrigg (Telephone 07866914651) for further information.



Repair work around Annahilt Parochial Hall

As we go to press, the first stage of work around the Parochial Hall has been completed. This has comprised of replacement double glazing in the kitchen windows

and replacement of some of the guttering and downspouts. This work has been partly funded by a small grant from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

Over the next few months, further work will be carried out including:

- repointing of some of the exterior walls
- lining and insulating the old kitchen
- replacing four windows
- dealing with the damp on both sides of the hatch
- other miscellaneous items

It is hoped that this work will be completed by September, before the start of autumn activities. Once completed we will need a work party (men and ladies) to clean the hall premises and put things back in order.

Freewill Offering

The Parish Treasurers would like to thank those Parishioners who responded to previous invitations to arrange a standing order, make a direct bank payment to the Parish or post a cheque to the Treasurer in lieu of or as a supplement to their weekly envelopes during the current emergency.

If you have not yet availed of one of these methods of giving and would wish to do so, please contact:

Annahilt – Miss Patricia Halliday Email patriciaapc@btinternet.com Telephone 028 9266 5310 Mobile 07713 257691

Magherahamlet – Ms Abbie Stanford Email: abigailstanford@btinternet.com Telephone 07753746940

LISBURN FOODBANK

The Lisburn Foodbank is providing an essential service to those within our community who are experiencing difficult times, often due to circumstances beyond

their control.

The Foodbank provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis in the Lisburn area.

Parishioners may leave items for the Foodbank in the basket in Annahilt Church Porch, on the FIRST and SECOND Sunday of each month.

A particular request from the Foodbank is for cleaning items such as:

- Fairy Liquid
- small packs of toilet roll
- large nappies (sizes 6 and 7)
- baby wipes
- shower gel
- soaps
- washing powder

YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Parish Website: AnnahiltAndMagherahamlet.org

Parishioners are reminded that the website annahiltandmagherahamlet.org has been created to provide information on church related activities and organisations for parishioners and the wider community. The website also continues to host online services each Sunday. In addition, the website contains a list of upcoming church services and news from our group of parishes, as well as downloadable versions of the parish magazine. The site will be continually developed, so if you have any submissions, suggestions or requests relating to the website, these can be sent to admin@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org.



www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Parish Magazine

Any contributions for the next edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell (roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com) by Sunday 22 June 2025.