

## News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



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May 2021



**Rector:**           The Revd Canon Robert Howard  
15 Ballykeel Road, Hillsborough  
BT26 6NW  
Tel: 028 9263 8218  
E-mail: [jrobert.howard@btinternet.com](mailto:jrobert.howard@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org](http://www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org)



## **The Rector writes....**

My dear Parishioners

As we begin to take baby steps in terms of coming out of lockdown there are certain things we perhaps appreciate in a new way. I found it a really moving and beautiful experience to see people back in our church buildings to worship together on Good Friday and Easter Day. Throughout lockdown, I have appreciated so much the efforts of our technology team, Colin Robinette and William Mathers in making services available to everyone at home. Yet there's something so special about being able to worship together in person. The music of the organ, the care and attention that went into the simple but beautiful decoration of the churches, all helped to create a very lovely atmosphere. Even if one attends church services occasionally, there is something very reassuring and encouraging about being able to worship together, if the desire enters our soul. Many parents have also been thankful to see children getting back to school again after such a long period of online learning. Schools and teachers have done a magnificent job and we are greatly indebted to them for all their efforts on our children's behalf but nothing quite compares to getting back to school and seeing one's friends and teachers in person again.

As this magazine goes to print, garden centres are reopening and there are further decisions being made about how things might be reopened in the next little while. The rolling out of the vaccination programme has been a great success and we are all indebted to the medical teams that have got through so much work so efficiently. The knowledge of having some protection against the virus has given people confidence as they start to get out and about again. I have spoken to people and heard people interviewed on the radio who are making their first cautious journeys beyond their homes after 13 months of not getting beyond their gardens. Whether it's a trip to a garden centre to buy some plants or a visit to a Sunday service it's a sign of hope, a belief that better days are to come. These are all important things to behold and to witness in our society at the present time.

For such a long time we were inclined to take all our freedoms for granted. We had so many choices constantly available to us. There were always places to go, people to visit, experiences to discover and participate in. The past year has reminded us not to take these things for granted. Everything has in that sense changed forever. The Church will have a major task to rebuild and renew our spiritual life and community together.

Maybe there are valuable lessons we have learned through this experience. We

appreciate just how precious people are in our lives. We value the services they offer, whether it's cooking and preparing food and drinks, selling clothes or cutting hair. We recognise how important it is to stand with others and among others as we move into a new future. Instead of asking what can life bring me, we maybe ask different questions, like what can I bring to this life and offer to God and to others?

Are there things God has taught me or revealed to me about His faithfulness, His constancy and His love that might make a real difference to how we do things in the future? Are there values we need to rediscover, things we need to give up or possibilities we need to explore?

Before we move on too quickly, perhaps the first step is to assess where we are and give thanks that we have made it to this point. Maybe there are people to say thank you to, whether it is in person or by sending them a message.

By simply showing up and continuing to do their job these people have been crucial to our survival through this difficult season. I think of people like our GP and local pharmacy. I think of delivery people and postal workers. I think of the vital role played by cleaning staff in so many settings.

I think of the quiet compassion of Funeral Directors, the checkout staff at our local shops and supermarkets and garages. I think of those who have written and published books that have brought me to different places in my imagination or sowed stimulating thoughts through their words. I think of those who have prayed with me or for me. I think of parishioners who have cared for and encouraged me and my extended family.

To one and all I say at this point in time, thank you and let us keep working together to do all we can to be a community of love and care that spreads the fragrance of Jesus in all we seek to do.

May I ask people to continue to phone people they know who might be isolated or going through difficult circumstances? May I ask people to continue to pray for the life and witness and worship of the Church? May I ask us to be careful and vigilant as we follow Government guidelines and follow the best advice to stay safe? May I ask also that we be kind and patient with each other as we work out new ways and systems that will lead us under God into the future?

With very best wishes,

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

## **Christian Aid Week**

10 - 16 May 2021

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 when Christians wanted to offer relief and reconciliation in post-war Europe. From its early days Christian Aid has assisted people and communities on the basis of need, regardless of race and religion.

Today it is the official relief, development and advocacy agency of 41 sponsoring churches in Britain and Ireland, and it is part of the worldwide church community.

Christian Aid is self-evidently a Christian organisation. The board, appointed by the sponsoring churches, is trustee of the vision, purpose and values of Christian Aid, supplying a mandate to work for the eradication of poverty. The organisation is active in some of the world's poorest countries.

This year there will be a 'Walk for Water' during Christian Aid week. Due to the Pandemic, our parish coffee mornings have had to be suspended and therefore our normal fundraising opportunities have been limited. As an alternative, a small group intend to walk 5k whilst carrying buckets of water to resemble what women like Rose have to do every day in order for her family to survive.

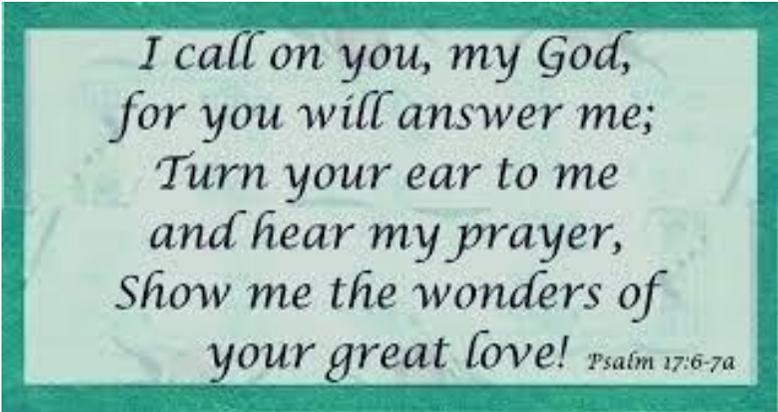
Please follow the link to find out more about Christian Aid's campaign:

<https://www.christianaid.ie/christian-aid-week/walk-water>

If anyone would like to support this cause, they can do so by leaving a donation in church or by posting/giving it to Louise McGregor or to the Annahilt Parochial Treasurer, Patricia Halliday.

*Coming out of lockdown*  
*Assessing where we are*  
*Giving thanks*  
*Praying for God to lead us into the future*





*I call on you, my God,  
for you will answer me;  
Turn your ear to me  
and hear my prayer,  
Show me the wonders of  
your great love! Psalm 17:6-7a*

### ***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.

**Telephone: 028 9263 8218**

**Prayers of thankfulness for the COVID-19 vaccine**

Dear Lord, we thank You for the wisdom of the scientists, for the courage of the trial volunteers, for the strength and compassion of the healthcare professionals, for the patience of the delivery workers, for all who have brought us to this moment.

May this vaccine offer protection.

May it offer strength.

May it offer hope.

Thank You Lord for sustaining us and enabling us to reach this moment.

**Amen.**

Thank you to all the scientists who toiled day and night so that I might receive this tiny vaccination that will protect me and everyone around the world. With the pandemic still raging, I am blessed to do my part to defeat it. Let this be the beginning of a new day, a new time of hope, of joy, of freedom and most of all, of health. I thank You God for blessing me with life, for sustaining my life and for enabling me to reach this significant moment.

**Amen.**

We thank you God, the Creator of cures, that You have endowed humankind with knowledge and imbued humanity with the understanding to find and to invent an inoculation to this pandemic. May it be Your will that this vaccine will prevent the spread of the pandemic and save the lives of millions throughout the world. In your name we pray,

**Amen.**



## **PSNI warn of fraudsters impersonating police officers**

Detectives from PSNI's Economic Crime Unit are warning the public to be extremely vigilant following multiple reports of criminals posing as police officers. Police have recently received numerous reports from residents across Northern Ireland stating that they have been contacted by people claiming to be officers asking them to withdraw money from their accounts and hand over bank cards, jewellery and other valuables. Detective Inspector Joanne Harris, from the Economic Crime Unit said: "Over recent days, we have seen an increase in the number of scams reported to us where fraudsters pose as police officers. Unfortunately, this has resulted in people losing large sums of money and valuables with some people being told they need to leave money in an envelope outside their house to be collected. Victims have been asked about how much money they keep in their house and are told not to let family members know that they have been contacted. One older person was accused of owing money whilst another person was enticed to leave their house with a sum of money to meet a fraudster. Luckily, this person's suspicions were raised and she did not lose any money. I am urgently advising the public to be vigilant at all times and to be aware that police officers will never call you and ask for cash, bank details or questions about valuable possessions. Criminals are continuously coming up with advanced and sophisticated ways of targeting people, especially those who are more vulnerable or older. If you have older relatives or family members, please take time to share this information with them so they can be fully aware of this type of scam. Our message is simple, never ever disclose any personal or banking details to anyone over the phone or online, no matter where they say they are calling from or how convincing they may seem." Protecting your personal information and banking details is extremely important. If you have received a call of this kind or if you are concerned by the intent of unsolicited calls, emails or letters, then please call police on the non-emergency number 101, make a report to Action Fraud via their website [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by phoning 0300 123 2040. For further advice and information visit [www.nidirect.gov.uk/scamwiseni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/scamwiseni) or the ScamwiseNI Facebook page @scamwiseni

*The Church of Ireland, alongside other Churches, is supporting the Scamwise NI campaign and other initiatives to prevent and encourage the reporting of scams.*

## 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"'

Sunday 2 May

### **Easter V**

10.00

Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00

Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 9 May

### **Easter VI (Rogation Sunday)**

*Christian Aid Week*

10.00

Family Service

Annahilt

12.00

Family Service

Magherahamlet

Thursday 13 May

### **Ascension Day**

**7.30 pm**

Holy Communion

Annahilt

Sunday 16 May

### **Sunday after Ascension Day**

10.00

Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00

Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 23 May

### **Pentecost**

10.00

Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00

Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 30 May

**Trinity Sunday**

|       |                         |               |
|-------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 10.00 | Morning Prayer & Litany | Annahilt      |
| 12.00 | Morning Prayer & Litany | Magherahamlet |

Sunday 6 June

**Trinity I**

|       |                  |               |
|-------|------------------|---------------|
| 10.00 | Parish Communion | Annahilt      |
| 12.00 | Parish Communion | Magherahamlet |

Sunday 13 June

**Trinity II**

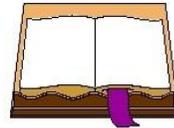
*Children's Day*

|       |                        |               |
|-------|------------------------|---------------|
| 10.00 | Children's Day Service | Annahilt      |
| 12.00 | Children's Day Service | Magherahamlet |

## From the Parish Registers

### Christian Burials

*'In Christ shall all be made alive'*



**30 March 2021**

### **Aileen Stockdale, Woodfall Manor, Annahilt**

*Following a Service in St Mark's Church, Newtownsaville, burial took place in adjoining Churchyard*

We were all deeply shocked by the very unexpected and untimely death of Aileen Stockdale.

Aileen was a Geography graduate who worked at Aberdeen University for 15 years before joining the Queen's University, Belfast in 2006.

Aileen was fiercely intelligent, full of excellent ideas, energetic and enthusiastic, and always generous with her time. She was dedicated to the mentoring of junior staff and PhD students, and enjoyed seeing new academics develop in their careers. She gave diligent advice with openness and honesty, and had a knack for hitting the nail on the head. Yet she was also incredibly humble. Aileen loved a laugh and enjoyed the 'craic'.

Aileen became the Director of Educational Planning at Queen's from 2008 to 2014. Later she joined the School of Natural and Built Environment at Queen's.

Since moving to Annahilt, Co Down, the Church of the Ascension became Aileen's spiritual home where she was a regular attendee at worship and for two successive years served as People's Churchwarden. She was a truly dedicated holder of that Office, where her cheerfulness and welcoming disposition were infectious and appreciated by many, especially elderly parishioners and visitors to the Church. One of the unofficial but vital duties of the Churchwardens in Annahilt which is situated at a very bad bend on a busy main road, is to see the Sunday School teachers and pupils safely across to the Parochial Hall mid-way through the Church Service. In that role, Aileen endeared herself to the entire Sunday School by chatting with the children and taking an interest in them.

Aileen worked very closely and effectively with her fellow Churchwarden, Graham

Galbraith. They complemented each other magnificently in their respective roles.

Aileen was an avid sports fan and a life-long supporter of Leeds United. For a number of years Aileen was also a diligent and industrious member of the Committee which ran successive Craft Fairs each year in Annahilt Parish. Aileen was always good fun, good humoured, and had a “**can-do**” attitude.

A death such as Aileen’s shocks and saddens us all. We have each suffered a great loss, but especially Aileen’s brother George, her sister-in-law Noleen, her cousin Pat and all her relatives to whom we extend our deep and prayerful sympathy.

*In due course it is intended to hold a Service of Thanksgiving for Aileen’s life in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt.*

**26 April 2021**

**Richard Walker, Rocklands, Annahilt**

*Following services at home and in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt cremation took place privately*

Richard was born in Belfast, the eldest son of Pamela and the late William Walker. He was followed by his siblings Brian, David and Alison. He attended Stranmillis Primary and Annadale Grammar schools and had happy memories of his time at both. Richard was a keen sportsman who remained a life-long fan of football, cricket, rugby, gold and Formula 1. He was a true blue, Everton, his dearly beloved, and Linfield, top of his league. He spent many Saturday afternoons and Boxing Days at Windsor Park with his brother David, daughter Lauren and nephew Simon. Being Richard he had a regular spot he liked to park in.

Richard was popular, keeping many friends from school, the Boys’ Brigade, where he was an officer, and the Air Training Corps. Family summers were spent on the Isle of Wight, with his much loved grandparents. The siblings still talk about those years when they cycled, crabbed, shrimped, and Richard’s favourite, bell ringing, with which he even convinced his Mum to join in!

Richard was a life-long music fan with Queen always top of his list and Kate Bush coming a close second. In later years, the Corrs and Pink also joined the list.

At the age of 18 Richard joined the RUC and loved his time in the Constabulary.

On Boxing Day 1981 Richard met Marie. They married in June 1983 and in 1987

moved to the family home in Annahilt. Kristen, Ashleigh, Lauren came along and Richard was always a very proud Dad.

Murlough Bay was the favourite walk for the family, enjoyed most on cold crisp days. Picnics were and continued to do be a favourite, even in the winter. The memorable holidays in France started with an AA route map, packing the roof box and packing the car was always an art, made even harder on the return as Marie had shopped a lot.

Food played a huge part of family life, Richard even packed his own curry spices to use on holiday!

Richard was a content, happy person, who loved pottering in the garden, reading the paper and watching Coronation Street on TV. Beyond these simple pursuits Richard was always ready to help others, in the family, his friends and neighbours and latterly joining an NHS Review Board and becoming a MacMillan Volunteer Coordinator.

We extend our deep and sincere sympathy to Marie, Kristen, Asleigh and Lauren and the entire family circle in their great loss.

## **Parish of Annahilt – Annual Easter General Vestry Meeting – Monday 19 April 2021**

In his opening remarks the Rector reported that in 2020 the Parish's official membership (those households who are subscribers) stood at 132 family units. However, there are additional households who have called on the Rector's ministrations, although they have no formal link with the Parish or who wish to identify with the Parish without making any official commitment. There were two baptisms and two funerals.

The Rector welcomed any who have joined our worshipping community in recent times and sympathised with all who have been bereaved. In particular, he referred to the passing of Mrs Esther Ferguson, wife of the late Revd Jack Ferguson, former Rector of the Parish. As well as being enormously supportive of her husband in his ministry, Mrs Ferguson played a huge role in her own right in the life of this and other parishes as well as in the wider diocese, especially in the Mothers' Union. The Rector also referred to the passing of his mother, bringing to an end a very happy association with the Group of Parishes during the years she lived at the Rectory. He renewed his thanks for the extensive support shown by parishioners to him and his siblings at their time of great loss. He also mentioned the very untimely death of Professor Aileen Stockdale. As the People's Churchwarden over a two year period Aileen impressed us by her dedication to the Office, where her cheerfulness and welcoming disposition were infectious and appreciated by many. On the Select Vestry and on the Craft Fair Committee she was inspirational as a real team player as well as a hard-working and conscientious colleague. Reference was also made to the very recent death of HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh just two months short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He said the Duke's legacy was enormous, particularly as The Queen's Consort and as founder of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Worship and prayer were paramount during 2020 which contributed to the spiritual well-being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values. There was a Service on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent at which the Bishop, the Rt Revd David McClay presided and preached on his first visit to the Group of Parishes. On account of the coronavirus pandemic In-Church Services and other parochial activities were suspended from 22 March to 12 September and again from 23 November to 12 December. Holy Week (the week before Easter) was observed with mid-week Services transmitted on-line. The Devotional Speaker was the Rt Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher and Archbishop elect of Armagh. The annual Christmas Carol Service proceeded, unfortunately without the participation of our Church Choir or the participation by the Choir of Annahilt Primary School on account of social distancing. However, a long-standing reciprocal arrangement was continued whereby the Minister and Congregation of Legacurry Presbyterian Church attended the First

Communion of Christmas in the Parish Church on Christmas Eve, and the Rector and Parishioners of Annahilt Church of Ireland attended the Watchnight Service in Legacurry on New Year's Eve. Both events were proportionately attended by members of both the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Churches.

The Parochial Hall is a very useful facility which regrettably has been out of use during the global pandemic. It will no doubt prove its worth again in advancing Christian activity in our parish in future years.

Prior to lock-down a splendid Dinner to celebrate Burns' Night took place in January in the nearby Larchfield Estate and Grounds. Items for the local food-bank were donated at collection points in various retail outlets and proved to be of immense benefit for those in our community who are less fortunate than others.

Concerning the Church grounds, the allocation of responsibility to an outside contractor has continued to be very beneficial. Additional work was also done on a voluntary basis by parishioners. The overall effect has been noted with pleasure and appreciation by both parish members and visitors alike. The Select Vestry remain committed to the upkeep and development of all parochial property and assets for the future benefit of the Parish and the public.

Various steps were taken throughout the year to ensure that the Parish is compliant with new GDPR regulations.

Drawing his remarks to a close, the Rector thanked everyone who had contributed to Parish life during the year.

During the meeting, the Trustees' Report was presented by the Honorary Treasurer, Miss J P Halliday and the annual elections were held.

#### Easter General Vestry Elections 2021

Rector's Churchwarden  
People's Churchwarden  
Rector's Glebewarden  
People's Glebewarden

Trevor Hill  
Dr David Keith  
William Mathers  
David Guiney

In addition to the above Officers, the following were elected to the Select Vestry:

David Brown  
Robert (Bert) T Carlisle  
Mrs Edwina Crawford

John Erwin  
Miss Patricia Halliday  
William (Bill) Harrison

Ian Dunn  
David Guiney  
Stephen Chapman

Colin Hassard  
Mrs Avril McKeown  
Colin Robinette

Hon Secretary  
Hon Treasurer  
FWO Treasurer  
Graveyard Secretary  
Parochial Insurance Co-Ordinator

Colin Hassard  
Miss Patricia Halliday  
Trevor Hill  
Mrs Avril McKeown  
Ian Dunn

Health and Safety Co-ordinator  
Independent Examiner

Roger Maxwell  
Kenneth Watterson

### **Parish of Magherahamlet – Annual Easter General Vestry Meeting – Wednesday 21 April 2021**

In his opening remarks the Rector referred to the unprecedented lockdown on account of the global pandemic.

In 2020 the Parish's official membership (those households who are subscribers) stood at 63 family units. However, there are additional households who have called on the Rector's ministrations although they have no formal link with the Parish or who wish to identify with the Parish without making any official commitment. He welcomed any who have joined our worshipping community in recent times and sympathised with all who have been bereaved. With deep regret he recorded the passing of Ian Douglas. The Rector also mentioned the passing of his mother and how much she enjoyed worshipping in church as well as the friendship and consideration offered by parishioners over the years. He renewed thanks for the support given to him and his siblings at a very difficult time.

Worship and prayer were paramount during 2020 notwithstanding the extended period of lockdown. Holy Week was observed with mid-week Services held on-line with the Rt Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher and Archbishop elect of Armagh as Devotional Speaker. On Remembrance Sunday, the Bishop, the Rt Revd David McClay made his first visit to Magherahamlet and preached. Last year it was not possible to hold the annual united Christmas Carol Service which usually alternates each year with our parish and the two local Presbyterian Churches. Instead each Church held its own Service.

The new Parochial Hall is a splendid facility which in the eight and a half years since its official opening has more than proved its worth in advancing Christian activity in our parish. Unfortunately during the public health emergency it is not possible to hold activities there. We greatly look forward to when it will be feasible to resume holding events there.

The Select Vestry affirmed that the Church of Ireland child protection policy 'Safeguarding Trust' is being implemented by the Parish. During the year various steps were taken to ensure that the Parish is compliant with new GDPR regulations.

Concerning the Church and Hall grounds, they always look immaculate. The overall effect has been noted with pleasure by both parishioners and visitors alike, a great credit to the Glebewardens and other dedicated volunteers. The Select Vestry remain committed to the upkeep and development of all parochial property and assets for the future benefit of the parish and the public.

Drawing his remarks to a close, the Rector thanked everyone who had contributed to Parish life during the year.

During the meeting, the Parish Trustees Report was presented and the annual elections were held.

#### Easter General Vestry Elections 2021

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Rector's Churchwarden | Miss Virginia Begley |
| People's Churchwarden | Larry Fryers         |
| Rector's Glebewarden  | George McCurry       |
| People's Glebewarden  | Norman Hughes        |

In addition to the above Officers the following were elected to the Select Vestry

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| William Chambre            | Mrs Frances Magorrian       |
| Hillary Edgar              | Mrs Sarah (Sally) McCurry   |
| Christopher (Christy) Hall | Ms Abigail (Abbie) Stanford |
| Walter Kelly               | Mrs Lynda Vladeanu          |

|                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hon Secretary                 | Ms Abbie Stanford |
| Hon Treasurer                 | Hillary Edgar     |
| FWO Treasurer                 | Larry Fryers      |
| Health & Safety Co-ordinators | Hillary Edgar     |
|                               | William Chambre   |
| Independent Examiner          | Mrs Carol Shields |

## **Confirmation in Annahilt and Magherahamlet**

The Bishop, the Rt Revd David McClay has arranged to administer the Rite of Confirmation in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt on **Sunday 20 June 2021 at 3pm.**

Young people from both Annahilt and Magherahamlet of usual confirmation age and who are in Year 9 in Post primary School are invited to consider being admitted to full membership of the Church by being confirmed.

Adults who have not previously been confirmed are also invited to consider this step.

All those interested in being confirmed should get in touch with the Rector immediately.

## **Finance Annahilt**

The Parish is grateful to receive a grant of £17,440 from the Dept. for Communities, Covid-19 Charities Fund Phase 2. These funds are towards unavoidable expenditure and lost income for the period 1st October 2020 and 31st March 2021.

## **Annual Report Annahilt**

The Annual Report for Annahilt Parish is available as a download from the Parish website News Page. If you do not have internet/computer access, a printed copy will be available from Patricia upon request. Please do not hesitate to contact her on 028 9266 5310.

## **Tax efficient giving**

Just a reminder to everyone about Gift Aid: If you contribute to Church Funds and are a tax payer, have you completed a Gift Aid Declaration to enable the Parish to claim Gift Aid from HMRC at no cost to you?

Also a note for those who may no longer pay tax or pay very little tax, please contact Patricia or Hillary. It may be that the existing Gift Aid Declaration needs cancelled and/or replaced by one in your husband/wife's name.

## Flowers for the Churches

### Annahilt

2

9

16

Mrs B Oliver

23

30

The Rector



### Magherahamlet

Mrs C Fryers

Mrs F Magorrian

Miss L Jennings

The Rector

## Church Cleaning, Annahilt

### May

7-8

Mrs A Maxwell

14-15

Mrs H Hill

21-22

Mrs E Crawford

28-29

Mrs L McCambley



Mr R Maxwell

Mr T Hill

Mrs M Finlay

Mrs E Harrison

### June

4-5

Mrs E Ogle

11-12

Mrs J Guiney

Mrs H Cardosi

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



Dear Mothers' Union Members and Friends,

It feels good to be greeting you this month with an air of optimism as we experience the gradual easing of some aspects of lockdown and also as we appreciate the brighter and warmer weather.

We are delighted too that our Trustees and Branch representatives were able to participate in the Down and Dromore Diocesan Council Meeting using "Zoom" on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021. While listening to the Trustees delivering their reports which sincerely acknowledged the devastating effect that the pandemic was having on everyone, especially the poorest and most underprivileged people in the world, it was also truly uplifting to hear about the amazing work, dedication and generosity of Mothers' Union members that was focussed on addressing as many aspects of this situation as possible. Huge thanks and appreciation was expressed from everyone and to everyone for the support that has been given and for the benefits that have been achieved so far.

We hope too that you enjoyed reading your new magazine 'Connected' that you will have received direct from Mary Sumner House. This publication acknowledges that, in

the face of this pandemic, Mothers' Union members are even more united as a fellowship of Christians throughout the world, putting faith into action and working with communities and others towards building a future free of poverty, violence and injustice. Emphasis is being put on empowering local people to work together to learn new skills and attitudes and to pass them on so that they can, in time, become self-reliant in growing food, learn to care for each other and will possess the know-how and ability to set up their own successful projects.

The next communication that you will receive will include 'The Irish Spin' - an 'All Ireland' document which examines the campaigning for social justice involving governments, groups and individuals. At present the most important news sheets for all members in Down and Dromore Diocese to read and act upon is our All Ireland President, June Butler's "21 in 21" Sponsorship Challenge aimed at raising funds for "Mums in May" projects. You may wish to sponsor June in doing her walks or raise your own sponsorship from family and friends by doing a fun activity that you enjoy without even having to leave your armchair, if you so choose. Alternatively, there is also a "Count your Blessings" activity for each day in May where you collect your loose change in a jar to acknowledge how much we all have to be thankful for. We pray that you will all be able to have a very creative and enjoyable time.

With our very best wishes in your endeavours.

Beth

Avril

Esme

Anne

## **Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—May 2021**

### **Rebuilding hope and confidence**

#### **Attributes of the Holy Spirit**

##### **Monday: Spirit of life**

Jesus said: What gives life is God's Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's life-giving Spirit.

*John 6:63 (GNT)*

Mighty God, you came through your Spirit and life was never the same again.

**Come to us now, breathing new fire into our hearts, new energy into our lives, new life into our souls.**

**Transform our fear, anxiety and doubt, filling us with confidence and faith.**

**Move in us, we pray.**

Open our minds to new horizons, new experiences and a new way of looking at life. And so may we live by the Spirit, bearing rich fruit to your glory.

**Move in us, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

##### **Tuesday: Spirit of truth**

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the father – the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father – he will testify about me.

When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.

*John 15:26; 16:13*

**Loving Lord, send your Holy Spirit to inspire us with your truth and reveal Christ to the world.** Holy Spirit, light up our lives with the truth of God. Be the one who accompanies us and guides us back to the way of truth when our feet should stray from the path. In a world which revels in uncertainty write the clarity of God's Word on hearts and minds; bear witness to the love of Christ and bring conviction of faith.

**Amen.**

### **Wednesday: Spirit of friendship**

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another friend to help you and to be with you forever. Unless I go away, the Friend will not come to help you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

*John 14:16; 16:7 (NIRV)*

**Holy Spirit, we treasure your friendship; your advocacy on our behalf.**

Holy Spirit, precious friend, we praise you for your comfort in times of pain; for your counsel in times of confusion; for your strength in times of weakness. We thank you for your help when circumstances overwhelm; your constant presence with us when others fade from our lives. **Holy Spirit, your friendship brings joy to our hearts; your perfect companionship moves our souls to wonder and to praise.**

**Amen.**

### **Thursday: Spirit of adoption**

You received a Spirit that shows you are adopted as his children. With this Spirit, we cry, “Abba, Father.” The same Spirit agrees with our spirit, that we are God’s children.

*Romans 8:15-16 (CEB)*

Deep within our souls the Spirit’s assurance dwells; causing us to cry out:

**Abba, Father.**

**We are the children of God.**

Nestled in our hearts the Spirit’s assurance soothes; causing us to whisper:

**Abba, Father.**

**We are the children of God.**

Set upon our minds the Spirit’s assurance convinces; causing us to declare:

**Abba, Father.**

**We are the children of God.** Thanks be to our heavenly Father, by whom we have been made family, and assured of our eternal adoption through the Holy Spirit.

**We celebrate with praise!**

**Amen.**

### **Friday: Spirit of freedom**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

*2 Corinthians 3:17*

**Praise be to God that the Spirit sets us free to walk in grace.**

Amazing grace!

We are set free from the shame of sin and clothed in righteousness.

**All praise to the Holy Spirit; all glory to his name.**

Amazing grace!

We are set free from failing God and share in the victory of Christ.

**All praise to the Holy Spirit; all glory to his name.**

Amazing grace!

We are set free from the fear of death and given fullness of life.

**When the Spirit makes us free we are free indeed. All praise to the Holy Spirit; all glory to his name.**

**Amen.**

### **Saturday: Spirit of transformation**

We are being transformed into Christ's likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

**Holy Spirit, transform our lives that we may reflect the glory of Christ.**

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit that my thoughts may all be holy; Act in me O Holy Spirit that my works, too, may be holy; Draw my heart O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy; Strengthen me O Holy Spirit to defend that is holy; Guard me then O Holy Spirit that I always may be holy.

**Amen.**

*St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)*

**Holy Spirit, we embrace your work of transformation from the gloom of sin to the glory of Christ. Amen.**

## **Walking in the Spirit**

*An eight-part series featuring Bishop David McClay in conversation with the Revd Roly Heaney, a friend of many years.*

The Bishop shares very personally and testifies to the work of the Holy Spirit in his life from his conversion as a young man. Roly roots the conversations in some brief thoughts from the scriptures.

The first film will be premiered at 7.00 pm on Thursday 13 May (Ascension Day) and the series released daily after that.

[Twitter](#)[Facebook](#)[Youtube](#)[Instagram](#)

Church of Ireland House, 61–67 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2QH

## **LISBURN FOODBANK**

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

During the present government ordered restrictions it is not possible to leave items for the Foodbank at Church. However, if parishioners would like to continue to donate at this time, and it is hoped that many will, they may wish to know that the collection points at the two supermarkets, Tesco and Sainsbury's, are permanent points and will allow people to continue to remember those who rely on the Foodbank in a very practical way.

A particular request from the Foodbank is for items listed below:

Toiletries

Small boxes of washing powder

Toilet rolls (2 or 4)

Cleaning Supplies

Nappies

Baby wipes

Diluted juice

Coffee

Sugar

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.

**YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

**Parish Website: [AnnahiltAndMagherahamlet.org](http://AnnahiltAndMagherahamlet.org)**

Parishioners are reminded that the website [annahiltandmagherahamlet.org](http://annahiltandmagherahamlet.org) has been created to provide information on church related activities and organisations for parishioners and the wider community. Since the first lockdown began in March, a year ago, the website has hosted online services each Sunday. It also 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](mailto:admin@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org).



[www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org](http://www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org)

## **Parish Magazine**

Any contribution for the next edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell ([roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com)) by Sunday 23 May 2021.