

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



October 2020



Rector: The Revd Canon Robert Howard
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The Rector writes....

My dear parishioners

In Church, this time of year is traditionally one when we celebrate the Harvest Festival; a time to give thanks for the gifts of the earth, for all those who work the land and fish in the seas and for the many who contribute to the growth and production of our food. It is also a festival where traditionally food — or other — gifts are given to help others. Harvest

Thanksgiving has already taken place in Annahilt. Magherahamlet's Harvest Festival takes place later this month on 25 October, to which we look forward. In the unique circumstances in which we celebrate this year's festival it is inevitable as we give thanks for the gifts that harvest time brings, we think more widely about the different types of gifts that we can offer.

The metaphor of reaping and sowing is important to us as we consider our relationships and how we treat one another. The Biblical image of the body of Christ is a familiar one: one body with many members each working together to make the whole. The power of this imagery is that we don't all have to be the same. Indeed we are not all the same. There are many things which make us unique and one of these things is the way we are gifted. Some of us musically, some in sport, others in writing ... and so on. But despite celebrating the diversity of our talents, there are, of course, gifts that we can all offer. These are the qualities or values which we can all share and which build up others and the communities in which we live and work.

I believe that one of the greatest gifts we can give others is kindness. It is perhaps undervalued, sadly at times under used. However, when offered it can make a huge difference in our world, as I believe it has to many who have felt alone and isolated during the ongoing pandemic emergency. Kindness is described in the dictionary as 'the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate' and is considered a virtue or a value — but it is also a gift. The phrase 'random acts of kindness' is one that I'm sure many of us have seen on novelty mugs and plaques, and also on thank you cards. The idea that a small act of kindness each day will, over the course of time, mean you have positively touched the lives of many people. Random or not, our world would benefit from even more kindness. It sounds simplistic and to some degree it is. Kindness, thoughtfulness, consideration, won't solve all the issues and problems that we face at this very difficult time, but they have effects, ripple effects. Kindness isn't fluffy or just 'niceness'. Kindness is intentional, thoughtful and powerful and can be challenging as well as comforting.

A quick Google search came up with hundreds of quotes about kindness. Inspirational words or phrases from a range of people from all eras and walks of life. From Aesop to Plato, Audrey Hepburn to Ellen DeGeneres! But perhaps the most relevant quote on kindness that I could find comes from St Basil who lived some 1,700 years ago. He said 'he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love'. The harvest image of sowing and reaping makes a deep impression as we consider how our actions and choices affect others. The seeds we sow, however small, grow and affect others, in the same way as the actions and words of others affect us. The Bible also says that kindness is one of the qualities we should clothe ourselves in — this takes it a step further, suggesting that kindness should be something that others see clearly in us, not something we choose to show on occasion. This harvest time let us use our gifts for the good of others, to build and strengthen our relationships and communities, and offer words and acts of kindness as often as we can.

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

Congratulations.....

..... to Mr Jim Luke, Annahilt, on the recent celebration of his 97th birthday

Welcome back....

With great pleasure we welcome back our esteemed former Rector, Canon Eric Kingston and his gracious wife Kathleen who are returning to us as parishioners. In their long years of retirement, they have been members of Magheradroll, the parish in which they are still resident but have remained firm friends of both Annahilt and Magherahamlet. Recently, for personal practical reasons they made the decision to resume their membership of this Group of Parishes and will normally attend Sunday worship in Magherahamlet.

Now that they have 'come home' we hope that they will feel very much a part of our Church Family and that their renewed association with us will be a long and happy one.

Mrs Kathleen Kingston celebrated her 90th birthday on 25 September. On behalf of all in Annahilt and Magherahamlet, the Rector visited and presented her with an arrangement of flowers as an expression of our congratulations and love on this very happy occasion.



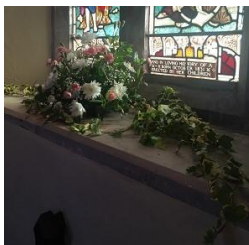
Reflections on Harvest Time in Annahilt

We were delighted that we had resumed In-Church Services in Annahilt when we gave thanks for the blessings of Harvest on Sunday 27 September. Although summer weather was ‘mixed’ with a particularly inclement August, this year’s harvest yields were bountiful. Notwithstanding the very unusual circumstances of celebrating harvest in the midst of a global coronavirus pandemic, there was a very evident twin theme of celebration and thanksgiving throughout each of the services.



There were beautiful displays of flowers, along with some fruit and vegetables. As there would have been difficulties this year distributing fresh harvest produce afterwards parishioners were instead encouraged to give non perishable food items

which were later donated to the Foodbank.



There was a lovely atmosphere of worship on Sunday. In the morning, a Celebration of the Holy Communion was presided over by the Rector, Canon Robert Howard. The special music was pre-recorded and included a responsorial arrangement of Psalm 67, and an anthem 'Fairest Lord Jesus'. There was also a sung version of the Lord's Prayer and a musical setting of the 'Gloria in excelsis'. The special preacher was the Revd Clifford Skillen, former Rector of St Polycarp's, Finaghy (Belfast).

In the evening, a Service of Evening Prayer was conducted by the Rector. The special preacher on this occasion was the Canon John Auchmuty, Rector of St Columba's, Knock (Belfast). An additional pre-recorded anthem 'Let all creation dance' was sung in addition to the morning piece.

At the conclusion of each Service the Rector thanked all those who had provided gifts and those who assisted with the decoration of the church. He expressed particular appreciation of the playing of our former Organist, Mr Timothy Wilson. In addition, he expressed gratitude to the Churchwardens who co-ordinated the seating arrangements in addition to their normal duties, also to Colin Hassard for type setting the Orders of Service and to the visiting preachers.

Parochial Annual meetings or General Vestries

The General Vestry meetings of both parishes in the Group, originally scheduled to take place in March, were deferred on account of the Lock-Down in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

These meetings have now been rescheduled as follows:

Annahilt	Monday 12 October	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Magherahamlet	Wednesday 14 October	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall

As usual, the past year will be reviewed and the Churchwardens and Select Vestries for another year will be elected.

This is also a triennial year in which Diocesan Synodspersons and Parochial Nominators will also be elected. The Diocesan Synodspersons represent the Parishes at any meeting of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod, usually an annual event.

The Parochial Nominators represent the Group of Parishes at any meeting of a Board of Nomination called to appoint a new Rector if a vacancy arose inside the next 3 years.

While only registered Vestrypersons may vote, attendance is open to all parishioners.

In-Church Worship in Church of the Ascension, Annahilt and Magherahamlet Parish Church

In-Church Services have resumed in both Churches. Numbers are reduced considerably because of the legal requirement to facilitate safe distancing. Because of this, it would be very helpful if those intending to come to church would give notice of their intentions.

This can be done online up to the **Friday** before.

Annahilt

Graham Galbraith grahamgalbraith1154@gmail.com

Aileen Stockdale a.stockdale@qub.ac.uk

Magherahamlet

Hillary Edgar hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com

Alternatively, you can make contact by telephone:

Annahilt

Aileen Stockdale 028 9263 8862 on Wednesday 7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Graham Galbraith 07909 998648 on Thursday 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Magherahamlet

George McCurry 028 9756 3955 up to the Friday before

Hillary Edgar 028 4481 1361 up to the Friday before

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 4 October

Trinity XVII

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt	<i>Service Sheets</i>
12.00	Parish Communion	Magherahamlet	<i>Service Sheets</i>

Sunday 11 October

Trinity XVIII

10.00	Family Service	Annahilt	<i>Service sheets</i>
12.00	Family Service & Holy Baptism	Magherahamlet	<i>Service sheets</i>

Sunday 18 October

St Luke's Day

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt	<i>Service Sheets</i>
12.00	Morning Prayer	Magherahamlet	<i>Service Sheets</i>

Sunday 25 October

Last Sunday after Trinity

10.00	Morning Prayer	Annahilt	<i>Service Sheets</i>
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End of British Summer time

On Sunday 25 October please remember that clocks go back **one** hour

Magherahamlet Harvest Festival

Sunday 25 October 2020

12.00 noon Harvest Parish Communion *Service Sheets*

Preacher: The Revd Stephen Fielding
Rector of St John's, Malone (Belfast)

7.00pm Service of the Word *Service Sheets*

Preacher: The Bishop
The Rt Revd David McClay

Sunday 1 November

All Saints' Day

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt *Service Sheets*

12.00 Morning Prayer Magherahamlet *Service Sheets*

Decoration of Magherahamlet Church for Harvest

Thursday 22 October

From 2.00 pm

Gifts of flowers, greenery, corn, and other foodstuffs will be gratefully received

Your assistance with the decoration will also be greatly valued

Magherahamlet Harvest Appeal

Harvest Thank Offering envelopes are included with this magazine. Once again we have the opportunity of thanking God for all his love and goodness, especially in the realms of nature. We can also do this by making as worthwhile and generous a thank offering as possible. The Thank Offering envelope may be returned at either of the Harvest Services.

Children's Harvest Offerings

The younger members of the congregation are asked to bring a non-perishable item of food (eg a packet of biscuits or a tin of fruit) to the 12 noon service on Harvest Sunday. They will have the opportunity of making their own Harvest Offerings during the service.

In Memoriam

On the Sunday after All Saints Day (1 November) at the 10.00 am and 12 noon services in Annahilt and Magherahamlet respectively, we will remember by name those from each parish who have died during the past year.

Flowers for the Churches

Annahilt

Magherahamlet

October

4
11
18
25

Mrs B Harrison



Harvest

Church Cleaning, Annahilt

Month

October

2-3 Mrs L McCamley
9-10 Mrs E Ogle
16 -17 Mrs J Guiney
23-24 Mrs M McCauley
30-31 Mrs J Bolas



Mrs E Harrison
Mrs H Cardosi
Mr A Bolas

November

6-7 Mrs E Crawford

Mrs M Finlay

Prayers for the Coronavirus situation

Almighty and merciful Father, who shows your love to all your creation. We come before you asking for an effective control of the coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found. We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. **Amen.**



To our brothers and sisters who have contracted and are suffering due to coronavirus, we pray that God's healing hand may rest upon you. To medical doctors, nurses and the supporting staff who are in the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, may the Lord sustain you and inspire you to render your life-saving services with due care, love and compassion. To all those who have lost their loved ones due to the coronavirus outbreak, we convey our deepest sympathies. We pray that God may grant all bereaved families his consolation and strengthen their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, we pray for those who need ongoing medical treatment who are forced to wait at this time. God, please watch over their health and help them to stay positive and patient. We pray that we overcome this global crisis and that after this pandemic, we build a more just and humane world. **Amen.**

Prayers for learning environments

Dear Lord, we pray for the children and teachers who have started back to school. We pray for their health and safety as classrooms and schools have been modified to allow for proper social distancing and hygiene. We pray for the caretakers and cafeteria workers, as well as the office staff who are essential employees at schools; we pray that you would keep them safe and protected from the virus. Please protect the families of the children and teachers as they return home each day; please slow the spread of the virus so that it would not infect these families. Lord, we also pray for energy and rest for the children and teachers so that they are able to plan their lessons and effectively teach all their students, also that the children will be able to learn and keep

up with their lessons. We also pray for their spiritual growth, in Your name, Jesus. **Amen.**

Lord, we pray for the students who have returned to colleges and universities across the country whether in person or virtually. We know these students are trying to get degrees so they can eventually have a job and it can feel overwhelming when plans change or seem to be delayed. This can cause stress and fear over the future for students and parents, especially financially. Please come alongside parents and students to reassure them of your presence and peace. Remind them through Your Word that though things may not go the way we plan or hope, there is purpose in everything because You are sovereign overall and You work through all circumstances. Help us to rely on You for all of our concerns, whether they are financial, academic, spiritual or others. Holy Spirit, please grant these students the self-discipline to complete their classwork through virtual means and safety when they come in contact with other students. We pray that these students would not disregard precautions that need to be taken out of a false sense of security. We also pray that our students would not be fearful but hopeful about the future and that they would be content with what they currently have and the direction they are heading in. Help us to think of others more than we think of ourselves, and help us look to You, God, above all other things. May our troubled minds rest on the things above and find joy in Your steadfast love for us. In Your name, **Amen.**

Mothers' UNION

Hello everyone,

We hope and pray that you are all continuing to keep safe and well as we enter Autumn and the Harvest season. Recent correspondence from Roberta Macartney (Diocesan President) and a letter from June Butler (All Ireland President) which was posted on the updated Mothers' Union website (www.mothersunion.ie) confirms that, to ensure the safety and welfare of our members, the time is not yet right to resume our Branch meetings. We will be kept informed of any changes to this decision when the situation is reviewed in another couple of months. Meanwhile, the All Ireland Trustees remain optimistic as they communicate remotely by Zoom technology and plan for a more connected and "normal" MU year in 2021.

Despite the difficult working conditions All-Ireland Trustees, Diocesan Presidents, Unit Co-ordinators and Diocesan Treasurers have been able to continue MU business over the spring/summer resulting in the successful completion of a number of Action and Outreach Projects in the Down and Dromore Diocese. These have included providing children with nutritious meals at lunchtime over the summer, helping at foodbanks, practical support for charities dealing with domestic abuse, organising 'Away From It All' breaks and delivering our donations of emergency soap bags.

Mothers' Union has also been working strongly on a worldwide front despite the pandemic and reduced financial capability. Most Overseas Development Officers are still in post so internationally Mothers' Union is continuing with literacy, financial and parenting education. Community development, work with prisoners, refugees and those fleeing from domestic violence is still ongoing.

June has asked that we pray for all Mothers' Union members of staff:- Those who work in Mary Sumner House who now have a reduced staff team, an increased work load and a voluntary reduction in pay; for those working overseas and at home and for all of our members. June and Roberta would be delighted if we could make an extra effort to keep in touch with each other: a quick phone call, a cheery note or a wave will brighten someone's day in these difficult and uncertain times.

May God bless and watch over you all.

Kind regards

Beth
Esme

Avril
Ann

Mrs Kathleen Kingston was the recipient of this arrangement of flowers from the Mothers' Union to mark her 90th birthday



Both branches extend their heartiest congratulations on attaining this milestone and wish her continued health and strength in the years ahead.

Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—October 2020
Building hope and confidence. Diversity.

Monday: **Celebration of diversity**

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

**God of all peoples and nations
we praise you for the wonderful differences
of colour and culture, of creeds and clans
that make up the human race.**

God of all flora and fauna we rejoice in the
manifold beauty of your creation;
of scents and sounds, of pattern and design
that make up the natural world.

God of all gifting and talent we praise you for
the riches of skills and abilities;
of music and arts, of crafting and science
that enhance our lives together.

**Lord of heaven and earth,
we celebrate the diversity
of your wondrous creation.**

**All you have made is very good;
we bless your holy name. Amen.**

Tuesday: **Unity in diversity**

There before me was a great multitude that no one could count,
from every nation, tribe, people and language,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb...

And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’

Revelation 7:9-10

**God of all peoples and nations,
we pray that through your wondrous grace
we may be a shining example of unity in diversity.**

May differing styles of worship and diverse doctrinal stances,
shared in mutual humility, enrich and bring spiritual depth.

May sharing of vision
and distinctiveness of mission,
outworked in a variety of ways,
empower and bring great joy.

**So hope may be given
to a complex world
in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Wednesday: **Diversity of gifting**

We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.
In his grace, God has given us different gifts
for doing certain things well.

Romans 12:5-6

Lord, we each have some gifts,
but none of us has them all.

We each have something to contribute to others,
and equally something to receive from them in turn.

You call us all to be part of your body
with a unique role to play within it,
as we belong to an interdependent whole
Where every member is of vital importance.

**Teach us, then,
not only to exercise our own gifts wisely
but also to appreciate those of others,
and so may we grow together,
building one another up in love,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Thursday: **Equality in diversity**

God created humankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them. *Genesis 1:27*

**We thank you, Lord,
for in your loving wisdom
you created one human family
with a diversity that enriches our communities.**

May we always recognise

each member of this human family
as being made in your image and beloved by you,
with worth and dignity.

**May we envision a way forward
to heal the racial divisions
that deny human dignity and
the bonds between all human beings.**

May we affirm each person's dignity through fair access for all
to economic opportunity, housing, education, and employment.

**We thank you, Lord,
for your call and challenge to us
to proclaim that we are all your children, heirs to your sacred creation. Amen.**

Friday: **Diversity of creation**

O Lord, how many and varied are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your riches and your creatures. *Psalms 104:24*

**Lord of creation,
bountiful giver,
we delight in your abundance
with full and thankful hearts.**

One crop, one fruit, one seed,
one flower, one creature, one race.
If all creation was one of each kind,
we would overflow with gratitude and praise.
Yet, Lord, we are blessed by your lavish abundance;
we marvel at nature's diversity.

Creator of heaven and earth,
we give you thanks for nature's rich variety.
Creator of sea and sky
we praise you for nature's wondrous array.

**Lord of creation,
bountiful giver,
we celebrate your abundance
with full and thankful hearts. Amen.**

Saturday: Celebration of diversity

In Christ all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. *Colossians 1:16-17*

**Good and gracious God,
who loves and delights in all people,
we stand in awe before you,
knowing that the spark of life
within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life.**

Differences among cultures and races
are multi-coloured manifestations of your Light.

**May our hearts and minds be open
to celebrate similarities and differences
among our sisters and brothers.**

We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action
and in your presence in our neighbour.

May all peoples live in peace. Amen.

WEEKLY GIVING – ANNAHILT & MAGHERAHAMLET

The 2021 FWO envelopes will be prepared towards the end of November and if anyone wishes to have envelopes or wishes to amend their requirements, would they please contact the Hon Treasurers.

<i>Annahilt</i>	Miss Patricia Halliday	028 9266 5310
<i>Magherahamlet</i>	Hillary Edgar	02844811361

We would also encourage parishioners to pay some of their giving by Bankers Standing Order and anyone who would be interested in discussing this should also contact Patricia or Hillary.

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
- Cleaning Supplies
- Toilet Rolls (2 or 4)
- Baby wipes
- Nappies

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

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. Since lockdown began in March, 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.



www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Parish Magazine

Any contribution for the November edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell (roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com or magazine@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org) by Sunday 18 October 2020.

Registered as a charity with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
NIC103246 (Annahilt) and NIC102122 (Magherahamlet)