

## News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



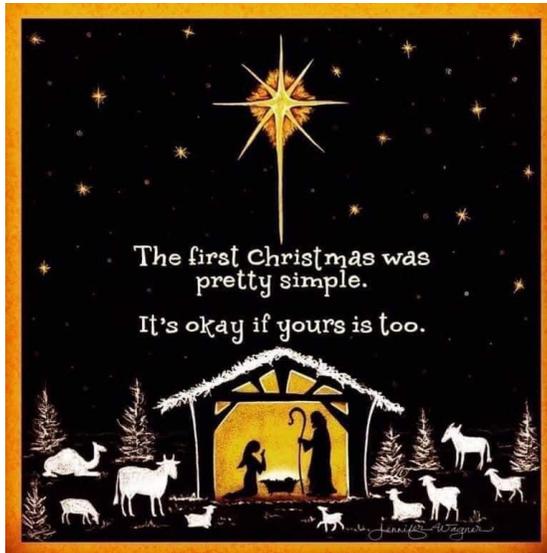
Magherahamlet Parish Church



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December 2020 and January 2021

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

My dear Parishioners

I'm writing this letter during 'Lockdown 2' which began quite dramatically on 27 November resulting in the closure of Churches for a full two weeks. I am now delighted that the Stormont Executive has confirmed that we may return to In-Church worship on Sunday 13 December. 'Stop / Start' has been a theme for much of this past year. All of us have lived with 'uncertainty' amidst a great deal of 'certainty' when we have known what we can or can't do because the Executive have set out pandemic permissions and restrictions, which for many have not always been as clear as we might have hoped.

Many of our usual ways of going have been curtailed, which at times we have found hard to bear. We understand, but we remain frustrated, sad and at times downcast at what we have missed most.

Members of our Parochial Family have lost loved ones this year. The pain of that loss has been compounded by not being able to have the extended family and other friends at their funeral, or being together celebrating a loved one's life at the traditional wake beforehand or the tea afterwards. 'Blessed are those who mourn...' However, we have held all the bereaved in our thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months which have followed.

The Advent season reminds us that Christmas is 'a comin'. While we now understand that we will be 'back in our 'buildings' and can be present together, please understand that things could change very, very quickly. We will celebrate our Lord's birth in whatever way is possible for us: Things 'not going to plan', amidst things 'going to plan' was of course the order of the day in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

A creative person, I'm sure, could take the following elements and tell the Nativity using the backdrop of a pandemic.

- How might the angel Gabriel have spoken with Mary, would she have been summoned to an angelic Zoom call, or WhatsApp, or Facetime?
- Mary and Elizabeth could only have met if they were part of the same 'bubble', though an outdoor walk in the park would have been ok at present.
- Might the census have been cancelled?
- Would Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem be seen as 'essential travel' and if so, would they have found the inns shut? If they were travelling for work then a bed

would be available, but not the restaurant and bar? If, as many scholars believe, they were really staying in a family guest room, then that definitely would have been a 'closed door.'

- We don't know if someone attended the birth to support Mary as was customary in those days, but if they had, they would have worn a mask.
- Hopefully the shepherds, being outdoor workers, would have been fine to work on the hillside, no need to socially distance from the sheep, but probably not able to visit at the birth.
- Would the star have shined more brightly in the sky due to less pollution?
- The wise men certainly wouldn't have been travelling 'from afar'. Would they have missed Mary and Joseph at the inn, if they had flown in and had to quarantine for two weeks? If, in reality, they came two years later as scholars believe, then would the pandemic still be around in some way, affecting their journeying?

The story as we know it would have been different, because the realities of history are the wrappers in which the Christmas message is packaged. St Paul feels that the essential element is contained in one thought: 'But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his son, born of a woman.' (Galatians 4.4). He makes no other reference to the Nativity story 'packaging.'

St John likewise foregoes the usual details, the traditional 'packaging', in order to come to the same conclusion, 'And the world became flesh and lived among us.' What more needs to be said?

Neither political oppression then nor a pandemic now prevents the Christmas message from bursting out afresh with joy and hope for a troubled world. Emmanuel 'God with us' spoken to people enduring turbulent times two thousand years ago is the message we take afresh into our lives amidst the tribulations and turbulence of our today. We test its veracity through our experience. Lived truth is the truth that generally matters.

I wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas and pray that you may be able to both receive and give gifts, and that in doing both you will have much pleasure.

I also trust that you will have an enriching and fulfilling Advent and a hopeful New Year

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

## **Congratulations....**

.....to Canon Eric Kingston on the recent celebration of his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Rector visited Canon Kingston and presented him with an arrangement of seasonal plants as a token of the good wishes of all in Annahilt and Magherahamlet. Our former Rector expressed his great pleasure at being remembered in this way and asked for his grateful thanks to be conveyed to all in the Group of Parishes.

.....to Mrs Beth Harrison, Annahilt on the recent celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Thank you.....**

.....to all who contributed to the annual Harvest Appeal:

Annahilt £850 including £260 donation from Parish funds

Magherahamlet £1400

.....to all who contributed to recent special collections for the Poppy Appeal

Annahilt £150 including £26 donation from Parish funds

Magherahamlet £174,50

.....to all the various volunteers who have assisted in the Church cleaning, as well as all who provided flowers for the Churches during the past year.

The cleanliness of the Churches for public worship does not go unnoticed and is much appreciated by all, especially during present circumstances.

The floral arrangements which are given each week are also valued and admired by all who worship in both Churches.

....to Colin Robinette and William Mathers for their assistance in the online transmission of Services during the most recent Lockdown.

## The season of Advent

‘Advent’ means ‘coming’ and marks the four weeks leading up to the celebration of the Nativity and the coming of Christ. It is traditionally a season of penance and preparation before Christmas. The official Church liturgical colour is purple, a symbol of penitence. Weddings used to be forbidden during this season, as they once were during Lent.



Tradition has given its own flavour to each of the Advent Sundays. The Sunday next before Advent was known as ‘Stir up Sunday’, so named because it was the day for ‘stirring up’ Christmas puddings. The second Sunday was known as Bible Sunday when our focus was on the reading, preaching and distribution of God’s Word as revealed in the books of the Bible. The third Sunday is the ‘Gaudete’ Sunday from the Latin word for ‘rejoice’. On that day everyone took a break from the penitential theme. A rose coloured candle is lit on this Sunday.

In our Churches an Advent wreath is often among the decorations made with evergreen branches such as holly, yew or pine. The four Advent candles are fixed into the wreath along with a white candle which represents the Light of Christ coming into the world at Christmas.

Advent calendars are still popular today, usually a card with twenty-four small doors, one to be opened each day from the first day of December until Christmas Eve. Each door conceals a picture, which originally had biblical themes. Every morning children open one door to see a pretty picture or find a chocolate inside. This popular tradition arose in Germany in the late 1800s and soon spread throughout Europe and North America.

## Gifts at Christmas

On Sunday 13 December at the 10.00 am Christingle Service in Annahilt and the 12.00 noon Christingle Service in Magherahamlet, the parishioners attending are asked to bring a gift which will be presented later to a boy or girl who would not otherwise have a present to open at Christmas. Any gifts should be new, wrapped with an indication of whether it is for a boy or a girl and the age of the child for whom it is intended.

On Christmas Day, at the 10.00 am Family Service in Annahilt and at Parish Communion at 11.30 am in Magherahamlet, the young people attending are asked to bring with them a present which they have been given for Christmas. There will be an opportunity during the service to show their gift to the congregation and to say a prayer of thanksgiving.

## Holy Communion in Church

The Clergy have now been issued with guidelines from the House of Bishops which enables us to receive Holy Communion in both kinds, something which many will warmly welcome.



Bread will be broken in a sanitised environment prior to the Service and be administered to communicants as they stand in their pews. Wine will be distributed in individual containers. All of the foregoing will be explained and demonstrated beforehand, to ensure everyone is comfortable and best placed to benefit from partaking of the Lord's Supper.

These arrangements approved by the House of Bishops are intended as a very temporary provision during the present COVID pandemic. As soon as it is considered safe to do so, wine will be distributed using the common cup.

There will be three celebrations of the Holy Communion in the Group of Parishes over the Christmas period.

Unfortunately it is not practical to have an early Communion Service in Annahilt on Christmas Day this year. Instead there will be a SAID Communion Service on the Sunday BEFORE Christmas, 20 December at the later time of **9.30 am**. This may be of particular interest to those who usually attended the early celebration prior to its suspension at the beginning of Lockdown 1. In present circumstances it may also suit those who prefer a shorter and 'quieter' act of worship.

On Christmas Eve, 24 December at **11.15 pm** the First Communion of Christmas will be shared with the Minister and Congregation of Legacurry Presbyterian Church.

On 25 December at the earlier time of **11.30 am** the Parish Communion of Christmas Day will be celebrated in Magherahamlet Parish Church.

### **Private Communion at Christmas**

Any parishioners who are ill or housebound or who in present circumstances are not in a position to attend church and would like Holy Communion in their own home before Christmas should contact the Rector who will only be too pleased to make the arrangements. Tel 028 9263 8218.

### **Carol Services**

In present circumstances it has been necessary to make somewhat different arrangements for our traditional Carol Services in both Parishes.

In Annahilt, on account of the necessity of safe distancing it is not possible for either the Parish Choir or the Choir of Anahilt Primary School to participate as normal. However, a congregational Service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday 20 December at **3.00 pm** in the Church of the Ascension. We are delighted that DV, a Quintet from Baillies Mills Accordion Band will take part.

There will be **NO** service in Annahilt at 10.00 am

This year, it would have been the turn of Spa Presbyterian Church to host the Community Carol Service with Magherahamlet Presbyterian and Magherahamlet Parish. At the present time the Session of Spa Church felt that this would not be possible. It has been left to each Church to make its own arrangements.

A congregational Carol Service will be held in Magherahamlet Parish Church on Sunday **morning** 20 December at the earlier time of **11.30 am**.

## **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 normally be done via email up to the **Friday** before.

### *Annahilt*

Trevor Hill [trevorhill111@btinternet.com](mailto:trevorhill111@btinternet.com)

Ivan Bradford [ivan.bradford@aps-group.co.uk](mailto:ivan.bradford@aps-group.co.uk)

### *Magherahamlet*

Hillary Edgar [hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com](mailto:hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com)

Alternatively, you can make contact by telephone:

### *Annahilt*

Trevor Hill 07890552930 up to the Friday before

Ivan Bradford 02892638884 up to the Friday before

### *Magherahamlet*

George McCurry 028 9756 3955 up to the Friday before

Hillary Edgar 028 4481 1361 up to the Friday before

For Annahilt, notification of attendance can also be given via the Parish website 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"'*

Sunday 6 December                      **Advent II (Bible Sunday)**

10.00              Parish Communion                      Online

Sunday 13 December                      **Advent III**

10.00              Children's Christingle & Gift Service    Annahilt

12.00              Children's Christingle & Gift Service    Magherahamlet

Sunday 20 December                      **Advent IV**

**9.30 am**              Holy Communion                      Annahilt

10.00              *No Service*                      Annahilt

**11.30 am**              Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols    Magherahamlet

**3.00 pm**              Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols    Annahilt  
With Quintet from Baillies Mills Accordion Band

Thursday 24 December                      **Christmas Eve**

**11.15 pm**              The First Communion of Christmas    Annahilt  
with the Minister & Congregation of Legacurry Presbyterian Church

Preacher: The Revd Bobby Liddle



Sunday 17 January

**Epiphany II**

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer Magherahamlet

Sunday 24 January

**Epiphany III**

*World Leprosy Day*

10.00 Morning Prayer Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer Magherahamlet

Sunday 31 January

**Epiphany IV**

10.00 Morning Prayer & Litany Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer & Litany Magherahamlet

Sunday 7 February

**Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion Magherahamlet

## ***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**



## ***CHRISTMAS EVE***

Christmas hath a darkness  
Brighter than the blazing noon,  
Christmas hath a chillness  
Warmer than the heat of June,  
Christmas hath a beauty  
Lovelier than the world can show:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,  
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,  
Birds that sing and bells that ring;  
Heaven hath answering music  
For all Angels soon to sing:  
Earth, put on your whitest  
Bridal robe of spotless snow:  
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,  
Brought for us so low.

*by Christina Rossetti*



## **10 Prayers to pray during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16

### **1. PRAYER FOR GOD'S MERCY**

**In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy. Habakkuk 3:2**

Almighty God, you alone are our hope, our strength and our shield. Please move in power to rescue Your people from the many fearful effects of this global disaster. Amen.

### **2. GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE CARING FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

**I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13**

Sovereign Lord, we pray for people with special needs. Please comfort, guard and guide them and strengthen and protect the doctors, nurses, family and carers looking after them. Amen.

### **3. ASK GOD TO GRANT SUCCESS TO MEDICAL RESEARCHERS**

**Pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it. Matthew 21:22**

God of mercy, may an effective vaccine against COVID-19 be quickly distributed. Please enable pharmaceutical companies to provide enough of this and other vital medicine. Amen.

### **4. PRAY FOR OUR CHURCHES**

**Equip God's people to do His work and build up the church ... until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Ephesians 4:12,13**

Father, please strengthen church leaders as they organise care for their congregations,

reach out to local communities and facilitate remote communal worship and prayer.  
Amen.

## **5. PRAY FOR THOSE IN BADLY AFFECTED PLACES**

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Psalm 23:4**

Father, we pray for particular households and communities badly hit by the virus. Please strengthen people as they battle through and bring them to a place of safety.  
Amen.

## **6. PRAY FOR THE NHS**

**The Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8**

Gracious God, grant insight to those responsible in our NHS for making decisions to maximise staff resources, create bed spaces and deploy life-saving equipment. Amen.

## **7. ASK GOD TO WATCH OVER THOSE IN NEED OF RESCUE AND SUPPORT**

**His faithful promises are your armour and protection. Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. Psalm 91:4-6**

Lord, please grant peace to all who feel lonely and fearful. Provide for people who live alone, those with no job or sufficient income and families needing support. Amen.

## **8. CALL ON GOD TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT UPON HIS PEOPLE**

**Since Jesus himself has gone through suffering and testing, He is able to help us when we are being tested. Hebrews 2:18**

Please fill Your people with Your Spirit of power and love to be worthy ambassadors of the Kingdom, faithful in prayer, speaking truth and loving those who are in need.  
Amen.

## 9. PRAY ABOUT THE ECONOMIC EFFECTS

**We hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. Hebrews 6:18, 19**

Lord, we cry to You about the global impact on financial markets, national economies and businesses resulting in closures, job losses and other hardships. Amen.

## 10. REMEMBER THOSE IN AUTHORITY

**Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. Lamentations 3:22**

Lord, grant wisdom, integrity and courage to governments worldwide as they announce and enact difficult measures that will seriously disrupt people's lives. Amen.



# My First Christmas in Heaven

by unknown

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below  
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars reflecting the snow.  
The sight is so spectacular- please wipe away the tear  
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear  
But the sound of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here  
I have no words to tell you the joys their voices bring  
For it's beyond description to hear the angels sing

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart  
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.  
So be happy for me dear ones you know I hold you dear  
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift for my heavenly home above,  
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.  
After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold.  
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other as my Father said to do.  
For I can't count the blessing of love he has for each of you.  
So have a merry Christmas and wipe away that tear.  
Remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

## Flowers for the Churches

### Annahilt

#### December

6	
13	Mrs R Carlisle
20	The Rector
27	The Rector



### Magherahamlet

The Rector
The Rector
Mrs F Magorrian

## Church Cleaning, Annahilt

#### December

11-12	Mrs A Patterson
18-19	Mrs J Bolas
23-24	Mrs A Maxwell



Mr A Bolas
Mr R Maxwell

#### January 2020

1-2	Mrs L McCambley
8-9	Mrs E Ogle
15-16	Mrs J Guiney
22-23	Mrs M Clarke
29-30	Mrs H Hill

Mrs E Harrison
Mrs M Finlay
Mr H Cardosi
Mrs H Logan
Mr T Hill

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Hello everyone,

We sincerely hope that you are all keeping safe and comfortable by the fireside on these dark and chilly evenings. Just the ideal opportunity to indulge in a little bit of creative crafting and guess what, we have received an invitation from All-Ireland Mothers' Union to take part in a new "Design a Christmas Card competition." There are three categories and the best two cards in each category from each Diocese will be forwarded for judging at All-Ireland level. Esme will forward more details of this competition to members either online or by post.

On the other hand, if you wish to support Mothers' Union by purchasing your Christmas cards this year you can do so online by visiting [www. mueshop.org](http://www.mueshop.org) or alternatively Esme has a small range of Mothers' Union Christmas card designs available and will be happy to help. Mob: 07748736622.

We have also received details about the fact that the two Mothers' Union publications, Families First and Families Worldwide are to be combined into a new style magazine and because of the current COVID-19 19 restrictions these magazines are to be posted directly from Mary Sumner House to each Mothers' Union member. We hope that you all have an enjoyable time with your reading and crafting.

A peaceful and blessed Christmas to all members and your families.

Kind regards

Beth  
Esme

Avril  
Anne

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.  
Romans 12, Verse 12*

**Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—December 2020  
Building hope and confidence.  
Advent hope of comfort and joy.**

*Monday: Advent hope*

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:5, 14*

**Lord of light and hope, open our hearts to your tidings of comfort and joy.** The Advent story of hope and mystery, anticipation, preparation, a kingdom of this world and the next, and a king appearing when we least expect. Heaven touching earth, the footsteps of the divine walking dusty roads as once they did in Eden, and a people, searching for a Saviour, and walking past the stable. **Open eyes and hearts, that this might be an Advent of hope to the world.**

**Amen.**

*Tuesday: Tidings of comfort and joy*

'I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.' *Luke 2:1, 14*

Loving Lord, whether we are filled with hope in this most holy season or in a place more attuned to the hill of Calvary than the stable of nativity, in your mercy open our ears to the eternal echo of angelic voices proclaiming tidings of comfort and joy. **In the quiet of your presence, we name those for whom we care. Whether they enter this holy season with a heart of gladness or sorrow, in your mercy open their ears to the eternal echo of angelic voices proclaiming tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Amen.**

*Wednesday: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.*

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. *Isaiah 40:1, 5*

The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.

The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

**We come to prepare a way for the Lord. We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives. For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it.**

We find comfort in proclaiming the joy of the Lord, the truth of his constant love in the face of uncertainty. **We find joy in embracing the comfort of the Lord the promise of hope bringing light in the shadows.**

**Amen.**

*Thursday: Rejoice in the Lord*

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy.

*Psalms 5:11*

When I see compassion and kindness at work in the world:

When I remind myself of your goodness and your care for us:

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

When I glimpse your creativity in the wonder of the world:

When I hear the sound of voices praising your name:

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

When moments of holiness shine like diamonds in the dark:

When I revisit the child, placed in that manger:

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

**Amen.**

*Friday: Tidings of comfort and joy*

He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

**God of mercy, help us to listen to your voice, a voice that speaks of peace to all people.** Let the sound resonate within us, until a whisper becomes a shout which cannot be ignored. Move us with your love, so that our actions echo your peace, and we may bring tidings of comfort and joy to those touched by conflict. Fill us with your hope, O Lord, and quiet the fear and hatred which divides us, as we seek to build a future together, of true and lasting peace.

**We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
Prince of Peace,**

**Amen.**

*Saturday: Advent hope*

We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so, we know and rely on the love God has for us.

*1 John 4:14-15*

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

**God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.**

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

**God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.**

**Amen.**

*Final Blessing*

**May the blessings of Advent fill us with hope as we share tidings of comfort and joy with the waiting world.**

**Amen.**

## **Finance Matters – Annahilt**

In August the Finance Committee agreed that the Parish would make an application to the Dept. for Communities Small Capital Grants Scheme in partnership with Larchfield Community Development Association. In October the application was awarded the maximum amount of £1500 between the two organisations although the total expenditure was higher than this. Each organisation has been able to purchase a new projector, projection screen, associated cabling and banqueting tables. The net cost to the Parish was approximately 25% of what would have been spent, had we not received a grant. The projector and screen have already been used in church when those present were able to watch a video which the Bishop had sent to all Parishes in connection with the Diocesan Gift Day initiative. We anticipate that this will be a very valuable resource for many activities round the Parish when we can resume some sort of "normality" sometime in 2021.

## **Gift Aid Declarations**

If you have recently become a tax payer and have not yet completed a **Gift Aid declaration** to enable the Parish to claim tax back at no additional cost to you, it would be very beneficial to the Parish to do so. If however you have recently stopped paying tax then any existing Gift Aid declarations need to be cancelled. Please contact the Annahilt Treasurer, Patricia Halliday on 028 9266 5310 should you need to update Gift Aid.

Weekly Giving envelopes are presently with the Treasurer. If anyone wishes to collect them from Patricia or arrange to have them delivered, please contact Patricia on 028 9266 5310 or Mobile 07713 257 691.

Annahilt Parishioners are welcome to post cheques for Annual Giving, magazines or other giving to the Treasurer, Miss Patricia Halliday, 35 Cabra Road, Hillsborough, Co Down, BT26 6NB.

## **Weekly Giving**

If anyone wishes to check how much they have contributed to Parish Funds up to 30th November, they should contact Graham Galbraith on 028 9268 8063 after 3rd December.

## **Finance Matters – Magherahamlet**

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can boost the amount of every donation you make by giving through "Gift Aid". This is an Income Tax relief scheme created to help

charities like our church get the most out of funds that they receive. Gift Aid enables the church to recover the base rate of tax on your donation. The scheme adds 25 pence on each £1.00 you give at no extra cost to you.

We would ask all taxpayers who give to parish funds to give through “Gift Aid”. All that is required is the completion of a “Gift Aid Declaration” form. If you have recently stopped paying tax then any existing Gift Aid declaration needs to be cancelled. Please contact the Treasurer, Hillary Edgar on 028 44811361 should you require a “Gift Aid Declaration” form or need to update an existing Gift Aid Declaration.

## **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.

## **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 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. For those wishing to attend a service at Annahilt, notification of attendance can also be given via the Parish website up to the **Friday** before.

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 24 January 2021.