

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

Magherahamlet Parish Church



July and August 2025



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

My dear Parishioners

As our summer magazine goes to print, there is much concern about the violence on our streets over recent weeks. The concerns expressed about a serious sexual assault in Ballymena spilled over into attacks on ethnic minorities, foreign nationals, refugees and asylum seekers.

Large numbers of police officers were injured, people's homes were attacked, as were hotels and other centres where asylum seekers are being accommodated. It's an extremely worrying situation as we think of all those people we interact with daily in our hospitals and nursing homes and cafes and restaurants. We think of all that they contribute to this country and it has been deplorable to see them being targeted in this way. Ballymena, Larne and Portadown have been the focal points of the violence in recent times and we pray for our politicians and police and clergy and community leaders to be wise and measured as they seek to restore and maintain calm and defuse these ugly tensions which bring great shame to our land.

In the midst of all that is nasty and horrible about these attacks, we see local people also trying to protect their friends and neighbours who come from other countries, who are feeling very vulnerable and frightened at this time.

The world as a whole seems quite unstable with the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran as well as the war in Gaza. We see too the volatile atmosphere in Los Angeles as protests take place over immigration raids and tensions are high. The war in Ukraine and Russia rumbles on with a steady loss of life and broken lives. Sometimes as Christians, we find it hard to know how best to respond to these big global events that are outside our control or as we think about the civil unrest on our streets. We wonder what to do. I try to think of helpful first responses to all that's going on and my first suggestion is a call to prayer.

Let's pray for those who are caught up in these situations and have nowhere else to go. We think of families who are terrified for their safety, who just want to get on with their lives and live in peace. Let's pray for those who were the victims of sexual assault, for healing from their injuries and trauma.

Let's pray for the police, for international leaders and community leaders who have the power to escalate or defuse situations through their words and actions. May they be given great wisdom and courage and an overriding concern for the peace and safety of all people. Secondly, let's try to be as well informed as we can about what's going on. Sometimes we are perhaps not as diligent as we might be in reading sensational headlines or social media posts without checking the truth of the opinions being expressed. Let's reach out to those we think might be affected by all that's going on. Maybe we have friends or neighbours who have come here from overseas. Maybe they

have fled from war situations in their home place and now find themselves feeling isolated and alone. Let's check on those we might know and do what we can to extend friendship and reassurance.

Now that the school holidays have begun, we take this opportunity to congratulate all who have navigated their way through demanding examinations and are enjoying the summer. We wish people well who might be looking forward to a holiday or some time away. I always encourage people to check out the local church wherever you go. Your presence can bring great encouragement to small congregations scattered in various places and it's always refreshing and interesting to see things done in a different way.

Elsewhere you will also find details in this month's magazine about the Bible week which will take place in Holywood Parish Church from 26th - 29th August. The Bishop commends it as a special week to encourage us as we prepare for another season of church activities.

We are in the process of planning some special events for the Autumn as part of an initiative to reach out to our local community, and we hope to have more details in the September magazine.

At this point we want to wish everyone a really good summer and we hope you do get the chance to take some refreshment and relaxation at some point over these months.

With very best wishes

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

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 July

Trinity III

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 13 July

Trinity IV

10.00 Morning Prayer

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 20 July

Trinity V

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 27 July

Trinity VI

10.00 Morning Prayer

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 3 August

Trinity VII

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 10 August

Trinity VII

10.00 Morning Prayer

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 17 August

Trinity IX

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 24 August

St Bartholemew's Day

10.00 Morning Prayer

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 31 August

Trinity XI

10.00 Morning Prayer & Litany

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer & Litany

Magherahamlet

Sunday 7 September

Trinity XII

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 14 September

Trinity XIII

10.00 Family Service

Annahilt

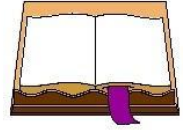
Service Sheets

12.00 Family Service

Magherahamlet

Service Sheets

From the Parish Registers



Holy Baptism

‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

15 June 2025

Blair de Forde, daughter of Randall and Olivia McKeown

Christian Marriage

‘What God has joined together let no one put asunder’

Magherahamlet Parish Church

7 June 2025

James Joseph McCauley and Kirsty Avril Burrows

Edengrove Presbyterian Church

8 July 2025

Jack Gibson and Lois Tate

We congratulate both of these couples and wish them every happiness throughout their married life

Flowers for the Churches

Annahilt

Magherahamlet

July

Annahilt

Magherahamlet



6

Mrs S McCurry

13

Mrs B Oliver

20

The Rector

27

August

3

Dr W & Mrs Chambers

Miss V Begley

10

Dr & Mrs W Chambers

17

24

31

Mrs E Crawford

Church Cleaning, Annahilt

Month

July

4-5

Mrs L McCambley

Mrs E Harrison

11-12

Mrs S Chapman

Mr S Chapman

18-19

Mrs E Crawford



25-26	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
August		
1-2	Mrs A Maxwell	Mr R Maxwell
8-9	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
15-16	Mrs H Hill	Mr T Hill
22-23	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
29-30	Mrs J Guiney	Mrs H Cardosi
September		
5-6	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
12-13	Mrs L McCambley	Mrs E Harrison
19-20	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
26-27	Mrs A Maxwell	Mr R Maxwell
October		
3-4	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman

The number on the rota of volunteers who clean the Church of the Ascension has significantly declined. It would now be unviable except that one couple has offered to clean the Church every 2nd week.

It really would be very helpful if there were additional volunteers who would ease the burden on those who already faithfully fulfil this important role. If you would be willing to help, please contact the Rector (Tel 028 9263 8218) or the Secretary to the Vestry, Colin Hassard (Tel 028 9263 8263)



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

JAM GROUP (Annahilt) and SUNDAY SCHOOL (Magherahamlet)

Both of the Groups will not meet during July and August. We hope that both the young people and their leaders are enjoying the break. They will resume on Sunday 7 September.

HARVEST FESTIVAL (ANNAHILT)

Thanksgiving for the Blessings of Harvest in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt will take place at Services on **Sunday 28 September 2025 at 10.00 am and 7.00 pm.**

Pastoral Emergency Cover

During the period the Rector is 'off duty' during the summer please contact any of the following Church Officers who will be able to advise who is answering emergency calls.

Annahilt

Rector's Churchwarden	Colin Hassard	Tel (H) 028 9263 8263 (M) 07989746221
People's Churchwarden	Stephen Chapman	Tel (M) 07759 662627
Graveyard Matters	Ivan Bradford	Tel (H) 028 92638884 (M) 0781051646
.	Raymond McKeown	Tel (M) 07525 764130

Magherahamlet

Rector's Churchwarden	Ms Abbie Stanford	Tel (M) 07753 746940
People's Churchwarden	Mrs Avril Burrows	Tel (H) 028 97565439 (M) 07810 602580
Secretary to Vestry	Mrs Frances Magorrian	Tel (M) 07436 220852
Graveyard Matters	George McCurry	Tel (H) 028 9756 3955 (M) 07947 4862910



The simple pleasures of Ordinary Time

One great phrase of the Church of Ireland, which is little-known but carries a wealth of rich meaning, is ‘ordinary time’. While the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent all have their fixtures and moments for focus and concentration, the bulk of the summer months is ‘ordinary time’! A very evocative phase – nothing particularly to focus on or to celebrate.

Just because it is ‘ordinary’, it does not mean it is not important or of no significance to how God wants us to use our lives. For most of us life is lived between high and low points: we look forward to something on the horizon or we are seeking to recover from something. So, it should be no surprise that ordinary time is the longest season in the Church calendar. Abraham Lincoln once said that: “God must love ordinary people because He made so many of them”!

Ordinary people, need ‘ordinary time’- Sundays and weekdays in between, to sense God’s presence with us in the day-to-day mundane, and ordinary comings and goings of life. He is there in the heights of resurrection joy and celebration. He is with us in the vulnerability and frailty of human weakness, modelled in the Incarnation. He is with us in our efforts to discipline ourselves and be moulded by him but He is also with us whenever we are conscious of life just being ordinary. When our eyes are opened to these things, we will see what an extraordinary God we have!

Psalm 23

The Lord is my guardian I have many blessings

He makes me rest in His love

And keeps my spirit calm,

Quenching my soul.

He guides me along the right way,

Making sure I stay near to Him.

Even though I know my journey will end
I am not afraid,
For He is always with me.
His grace and mercy
They give me comfort and peace.
He pours grace and forgiveness over me.
My soul overflows with blessings.
His love, peace and joy
Are with me always.
When my life's journey ends
I will live in heaven With Him for ever.



Dear Members

It's hard to believe the summer holidays are here again. The months seem to be flying by. We always seem to be looking ahead to the next thing: family gatherings, a break away, planning meetings and so on.

However, is it possible that we might be missing the big thing, the most important thing altogether, which is to live fully in the moment, hour or day that we're presently in. Here's a verse we may keep coming back to and relearn its meaning:

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” *Matthew 6:34.*

Of course, we have to plan but not to the extent we rush over the day we've been given and hurry on by unheeding the opportunities we have to make a difference here and now.

Magherahamlet members had a very enjoyable Outing on Saturday 28 June.. We began in Dungannon where we enjoyed Morning Coffee after which we engaged in some retail therapy. It is understood a significant number of purchases were made!

In the afternoon we travelled to Killymoon Castle where we enjoyed a delicious Vintage Afternoon Tea after which we had a very informative tour of the Castle. A memorable day was had by all.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Frances Magorrian and her husband Paul on the recent death of Paul's brother.

We wish you a pleasant and relaxing summer whether you are at home or away.

Beth
Esme

Avril
Sally

Reminder dates for your diary:

MU Diocesan Prayer Walk, Saturday 9 August, 10.15 am. Meet at Tobair Mhuire, Crossgar

Mothers' Union Midday Wave of Prayers

July 2025

1 July: Eastern Zambia, Zambia; Mombasa, Kenya; Gwagwalada & Ekiti-West, Nigeria; Leicester, England & Temotu in Solomon Islands

2-4 July: Renk, South Sudan; Cyanguu, Rwanda; Arochukwu/Ohafia & Ile- Oluji, Nigeria; St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane, Scotland and Sittwe, Myanmar

6-8 July: Wad Medani, Sudan; Kondo, Tanzania; Ikwo & Remo, Nigeria; Montreal in Canada & the Windward Islands, St Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent & The Grenadines

9-11 July: El Obeid, Sudan; Butere, Kenya; Nnewi, Nigeria; London, England & Washington, Massachusetts, Long Island, Florida, Diocese of the Living Word in USA

13-15 July: Toliara, Madagascar; Mbale, Uganda; Zaria & Ndokwa, Nigeria; Rochester, England & Chhattisgarh, India

16-18 July: Lake Malawi, Malawi; Byumba, Rwanda; Jalingo, Nigeria; St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, England & Lucknow, India

20-22 July: Gitega, Burundi; Murag'a South and Mbeere, Kenya; Enugu North, Nigeria; Tonga in Diocese of Polynesia & Jaffna, Diocese of Church of South India

23-25 July: George, South Africa; Bungoma, Kenya; Western Tanganyika, Tanzania; Ideato, Nigeria; Sodor & Isle of Man & Toronto, Canada

27-29 July: Northern Zambia, Zambia; Mpwapa, Tanzania; Gusau & Osun, Nigeria; Sydney, Australia & Rayalaseema, India

30-31 July: Boga, DR Congo; Manicaland, Zimbabwe; Tanga, Tanzania; Ogoni, Nigeria; Carlisle, England & Melbourne, Australia

August 2025

1 August: Boga, DR Congo; Manicaland, Zimbabwe; Tanga, Tanzania; Ogoni, Nigeria; Carlisle, England & Melbourne, Australia

3-5 August: Juba, South Sudan; Kitale, Kenya; Minna & Lagos, Nigeria; Moray, Ross & Caithness, Scotland & Madurai-Ramnad, India

6-8 August: Northern Malawi, Malawi; Eldoret, Kenya; Ngbo & Akure, Nigeria;

North West Australia, Australia & Aipo Rongo, PN Guinea

10-12 August: Niassa, Mozambique; Masindi Kitara, Uganda; Langtang & Esan, Nigeria; North Queensland, Australia & Kolhapur, India

13-15 August: Natal, South Africa; Kajiado, Kenya; Okigwe & Western Izon, Nigeria; Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island, Canada & Toungoo in Myanmar

17-19 August: Kasai, DR Congo; Shyira, Rwanda; Ijumu & Egba West, Nigeria; Liverpool, England & Sambalpur, India

20-22 August: Central Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe; Lango, Uganda; Kebbi, Nigeria; Tamale, Ghana; Sheffield, England & Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands

24-26 August: Saldanha Bay, South Africa; Karamoja, Uganda; Udi & Etsako, Nigeria; Wellington, New Zealand & Yangon in Myanmar

27-29 August: Matabeleland, Zimbabwe; Mount Kenya Central, Kenya; Niger West, Nigeria; Wangaratta, Australia; Clogher, All Ireland & Hpa-An, Myanmar

31 August: Harare, Zimbabwe; Machakos, Kenya; Ogori-Magongo & Ekiti, Nigeria; Southwark, England & Phulbani in India

THE MARY SUMNER PRAYER

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

Amen.

THE MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord,
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

LEARN THE ART OF CONTENTMENT AT BIBLE WEEK 2025

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

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

What's in store

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

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

Our speaker

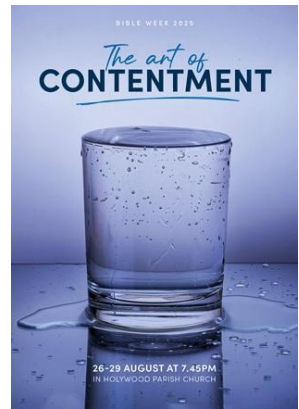
Colin Smith is President of Open the Bible and Pastor Emeritus of The Orchard church in northwest suburban Chicago. He can be heard daily on the radio broadcast, Open the Bible, and at openthebible.org. Colin is the author of many books, including *Fly Through the Bible*, *Heaven*, *How I Got Here*,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

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

Colin is married to Karen, and they have two married sons and five granddaughters.

Come along!

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



Annahilt Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club concluded a very successful season with an “End of Season Party”.

Commencing with the “Nursery Rhyme Game” followed by “Pass the Parcel”, those attending had much fun. A sumptuous “Afternoon Tea” at lunch-time was served which was thoroughly enjoyed by almost fifty folks. Before the afternoon came to an end details of the autumn programme and summer walks were distributed. Everyone claimed a little gift from the “useful stuff” table prior to leaving and some lucky folks also got a little posy of flowers.

The feedback from those attending the Wednesday Club since September 2024 has been very positive and folks are looking forward to returning in September.

The autumn season commences on Wednesday September 18th at 11am when our guest speaker will be Padre Stanley Gamble who will talk about his time as a Padre to the United Nations in Cyprus. Padre Gamble is also known as The Rev Canon Dr Stanley Gamble, Rector of Killinchy Union and a native of Lisburn.

All seniors and retirees in the community are most welcome at Annahilt Wednesday Club.

Walks in grounds of HRP Hillsborough Castle

Anyone can join with us in these walks kindly accommodated by an invitation from Larchfield Community Development Association.

Summer dates are Wednesdays: 23rd July, 13th August and 24th September, meeting at 11am at the reception area off the A1 car park. Contact Patricia on 07713 257691.

Lunch Club

The next time we meet will be Friday 25 July in the Pheasant at the usual time of 12.30pm.

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

29 August

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



Larchfield Community Development Association event Saturday 13th September 2025

The annual Family Fun Day, Vintage Rally and Road Runs for tractors and cars will take place on 13th September at 128 Windmill Road, Hillsborough, BT26 6NP.

This is always a great day out for all the family. Donation on entry for charity. All welcome.

Vintage Afternoon Tea Fundraising event in Annahilt

On **Saturday 18th October 2025**, **Annahilt Parish** is holding a **Vintage Afternoon Tea** fundraising event for Parish Funds. Plans are well under way following a meeting in early June when a good number of ladies of the Parish came together to discuss such an event. Following this very productive meeting a committee was formed to carry out the detailed planning. The committee includes: Patricia Halliday, Convenor/Chair; Edwina Crawford, Elaine Finney, Linda Hassard, Canon Howard, Fiona Jiandani, Jackie Laing and Audrey Simpson.

It is hoped that Parishioners will support the event in at least one of the following ways: by supplying sandwiches and/or home baked goods or a donation towards expenses, assist with practicalities before and during the event, sell tickets to their neighbours and friends and where feasible also attend the event. Parishioners will be contacted directly by one of the committee members in due course to seek your support.

In addition to the above we are seeking the loan of three-tier cake stands, and china, delph or good stainless steel tea pots and coffee pots. If anyone has any such items that they would be prepared to lend us for the day please contact Patricia on 07713 257691.

Tickets will be on sale from late August. Full details in the September magazine.

Christian Aid week/envelopes

The Annahilt Treasurer reports that only a very small number of Christian Aid envelopes have been returned to date. If you have forgotten to return your envelope or would like to add to that contributed to date, please contact Patricia on 07713 257 691 asap.

Thank You.....

.....to all who contributed to the following special Collections:

Annahilt

VE Day Service for Mayor's Charity & Royal British Legion	£526.70
Bishops' Appeal for Gaza relief	£110.00
Children's Day for NI Children's Hospice	
£237.00	
Christian Aid Envelopes	£ 50.00
Mission to Seafarers (Sea Sunday Collection)	£127.00

Magherahamlet

Church's Mission Among Jewish People (Good Friday)	£ 94.00
Children's Day for 'Home Start'	£125.50
Mission to Seafarers (Sea Sunday Collection)	£102.00

LISBURN FOODBANK

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

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

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

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

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

YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Parish Website: AnnahiltAndMagherahamlet.org

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



www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Parish Magazine

Any contributions for the next edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell (roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com) by Sunday 24 August 2025.

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