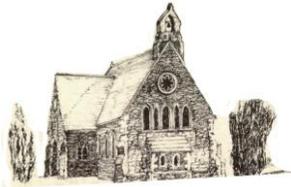


News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



June 2020



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

My dear Parishioners

I hope that wherever you are and whatever you are doing you continue to be safe during the current pandemic. There are many difficult aspects to being in lockdown. We miss our family and friends. We miss the regular activities we take part in, not least attending church, if that has been our custom and practice throughout our lives. We miss our independence, the freedom to head out to get a message whenever we want to and if we are self-isolating, it is hard to feel dependent on others to get our messages and do our shopping.

One of the biggest challenges of all however is the uncertainty. No one can tell us at the present time when all of the various restrictions are going to end. The Government and the Chief Medical Officers are all taking the best advice available to them. Experts are trying to construct some sort of phased system by which we can return to some type of normality again. It's a hugely difficult process to gauge. We need to enable people to return to work and business to rejuvenate the economy. People need that structure and discipline in their lives. There are very challenging effects on people's mental health through prolonged periods of isolation. While we all know these things, they have to be balanced by the need to protect people while the virus is as active and deadly as it continues to be.

Last month there were celebrations nationwide to mark VE Day 75 years on. I found it moving to see three veterans being introduced by video link on the BBC news. They had each seen active service during the Second World War and now through the marvels of modern technology, they were able to speak together and share memories. Another group that was acknowledged in the programme were the women who worked in very responsible jobs on the home front during the war as well as rearing their families and looking after their homes. Like the current pandemic, when these women saw their men heading off to war, they didn't know for how long it would last or indeed if their husbands and sons and loved ones would ever come home. They didn't know either, what effect these terrible experiences might have on their loved ones who did come home.

We do not know when we will be allowed to resume worship together again in the way we used to Sunday by Sunday. I would imagine that there will be restrictions and social distancing as and when we are eventually permitted to do so. I know some people have felt greatly blessed by being able to access our parish's online service each Sunday after 10.00 am in recent weeks and at other times during Holy Week and

on Ascension Day. Others who do not have access to the Internet been able to listen to the services on CDs. This is why we will continue to try to post out this magazine to those who don't have the internet and may not be receiving many resources. If I could offer any encouragement or words of wisdom during this time and we don't know how long it will be for, I think I would say 2 or 3 things.

Firstly, keep reading your Bible. Even if it is just a psalm or a chapter from the gospels or working your way through an account of life in the early church, like the Acts of the Apostles, read a little every day. Tune into things on the radio like the service on Radio Ulster at 10.15 am or the televised worship on BBC1 at 10.45 am or Songs of Praise at 1.15 pm on Sundays. Keep reading your Bible and worshipping.

The second thing that is vitally important is to keep praying. Pray for your family, for their well-being and protection. Pray for the Prime Minister and Government, for the First Minister, Deputy First Minister & Executive in Northern Ireland, for the Health Minister and medical officers and all who make important decisions affecting our safety and livelihoods. Pray for the frontline medical staff and supermarket workers and delivery drivers and pharmacists and those working in nursing homes and catering and farming and fishing and doing all they do to keep us safe and healthy. So many people need your prayers at the present time. We might often say we are too busy. At the present time the stakes are very high and we really we cannot afford not to pray.

I look forward so much to the day when we can be together again. Unfortunately, we cannot do anything until we have permission to do so and I am anticipating that there may well be quite a number of restrictions. Until then, I encourage you to keep reading your Bible daily, keep worshipping regularly, keep praying and carry on.

With every blessing

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

Congratulations....

....to Fiona Campbell, Annahilt on her engagement to Andrew Watson

Mrs Violet Howard



It is with great sadness that we record the death of Mrs Violet Grace Howard on 31 May 2020.

Deepest sympathy is extended from everyone in our group of parishes to Mrs Howard's family, particularly her sons and daughters Robert, Rosemary, Mark and Mandy.

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:28-29.

Editor

Devotional Resources for the Coronavirus Situation

The following pages contain some prayers and Bible readings that may be of help at this time.

A prayer for times of isolation

'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39)

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones, distant from friends, away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love. And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. **Amen.**

A prayer for medical workers everywhere

Restoring and healing God, thank you for medical workers everywhere, embodying sacrificial love in these challenging times putting the welfare of others before their own staying away from their family and loved ones comforting the concerned and bereaved reassuring the anxious and vulnerable working to heal and restore people who are ill. Be their guide, strength, wisdom and hope.

We pray for those in authority to do right by them for proper protective equipment to be provided and for their dedication to be met with much gratitude and appreciation when they return home, exhausted.

And we pray for medical workers around the world, where resources and protective equipment are always in short supply, not only now but always.

May these extraordinary times lead to deep and necessary changes in how our world works, resulting in a genuine effort to address the profound injustice of life expectancy being determined by geography, to awaken us all to the reality of how connected we all are and to work together to create the community and world we all want to be part of. So help us, God. **Amen.**

A prayer for the global pandemic

**Love...bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never ends.'**
(1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

Loving God, strengthen our innermost being with your love that bears all things even the weight of this global pandemic even the long haul of watching for symptoms of patiently waiting for this to pass watching and waiting, keeping our gaze fixed on you, and looking out for our neighbours near and far.

Instil in our shaken souls the belief and hope that all things are possible with your creative love for strangers to become friends, for science to source solutions, for resources to be generously shared so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need for your perfect love that knows no borders may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends be our comfort, strength and guide for the wellbeing of all and the glory of God. **Amen.**

A prayer for nurses

"May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." Ruth 2:12

Father, we lift up every nurse to You as they continue to look after Your children in need. We pray for their safety and protection against coronavirus in each and every department and hospital. We thank You Lord for them and their commitment and compassion. **Amen.**

A prayer for the church

May your love that never fails strengthen the weak, encourage the fearful, calm the anxious, heal the sick through your church – you washed hands and feet on earth – distant but still present, virtual but still connected, apart but still helping. God in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Prayers with children

Jesus, you are good and wise I will praise you when I rise. Jesus, hear this prayer I send Bless my family and my friends. Jesus, help my eyes to see All the good you send to me. Jesus help my ears to hear Calls for help from far and near. Jesus, help my feet to go In the way that you will show. Jesus, help my hands to do All things loving, kind and true.

I hear no voice, I feel no touch, I see no glory bright; But yet I know that God is near, In darkness as in light. God watches ever by my side, And hears my whispered prayer: A God of love for a little child Both night and day does care. **Amen.**

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"'

Unfortunately, it is not possible to worship together in either the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt or Magherahamlet Parish Church during the present World-wide Medical Emergency. However, we do invite you to join in worship online at www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Sunday 7 June **Trinity Sunday**

10.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 14 June **Trinity I**

10.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 21 June **Trinity II**

Fathers' Day

10.00 Parish Communion

Sunday 28 June **Trinity IV**

Children's Day

10.00 Children's Day Service

Sunday 5 July **Trinity V**

10.00 Parish Communion

Mothers' UNION

Annahilt & Magherahamlet

Dear Mothers' Union Members,

As we journey through these very difficult and most unusual times we are all very aware and extremely thankful for all of the expertise, commitment and bravery of our frontline workers. These very important people or VIP's are the ones who have been holding us and everything together when most of our world as we know it has been falling apart. In the world of Mothers' Union here and overseas YOU are the VIPs (Very Important People) and there is always a job for us all to do. All we have to remember are the letters VIP.

The first VIP means that it is VERY IMPORTANT to PRAY. Our prayers will strengthen and support each and every one of the 4 million Mothers' Union members working here and across the world. At this time too we are joining together to pray for our Rector, Robert and his siblings Rosemary, Mandy and Mark following the recent death of their dear mother, Violet Howard. Violet was also a very enthusiastic and hardworking member of the Mothers' Union Family and in recent years she always loved to keep up to date by reading about all the great work that Mothers' Union members were doing in our Diocese and around the world. We will all hold the memory of this loving and inspiring lady in our hearts.

We extend our sincere sympathy also to our dear friend Elaine Finney and husband, Peter and all the family following the death of Peter's father. We pray that God will surround you and all the family circle with his love and healing at this sad time.

We pray also for all who are ill or who need extra care and attention in our Diocese at this time. May they soon be restored to full health.

The second VIP means that it is VERY IMPORTANT to be POSITIVE. Try to think of one simple, small thing to do to make things better.

The third VIP is that it is VERY IMPORTANT to PASS ON your positive mood. PHONE a friend, POST a card or letter, PRINT OUT a cheerful message or e-mail.

The fourth VIP means that it is VERY IMPORTANT to do something that gives you PLEASURE. POTTER in the garden, PLAY music, PAINT a picture, do a PUZZLE, PICK OUT your happy PHOTOS and PASS them around.

The fifth and final VIP is to PUT YOUR FEET UP and have a rest - You have earned it.

Looking forward to hearing from you all soon.

Beth and Esme
Annahilt

Avril and Anne
Magherahamlet

Mothers' UNION

Letter from Roberta McCartney, Diocesan President

Dear Branch Leader and Mothers' Union Members

I hope you are all keeping safe and well at this time. We are all having to be patient staying in and keeping ourselves safe as well as others. We are now into week 5 of lockdown and I know some of you are cocooning and not able to go out. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

We have been very fortunate that God has provided us with glorious weather and what a beautiful Spring we have had. On my daily walk I have been amazed at the bird song. I have stopped many times and looked up to see if I could spot who has been singing to me along the way but he always eludes me. I do hope you too have been able to enjoy this. Many of you work or have family members working in front line services which are so important to us all at this time. Doctors and nurses and all the caring professions as well as food producers and suppliers. A friend of mine who works in a supermarket with a husband who drives a lorry said to me "I never thought we would be front-line workers, with people depending on us so much." Indeed, everyone has been playing their part.

Some of you will have been knitting and I know others have been involved in making 'Scrubs' and bags for hospitals and nursing homes and many other things that we haven't heard about. This has brought out the good in so many people. I know some of you are looking after your neighbour's shopping and in some cases making meals for those whose carers or family are isolating. Even a phone call can brighten someone's day. Well done to all of you. Please let us know what you have been doing in the lockdown. Some of you will have received your 'Families Worldwide' and will be shocked to see Mothers' Union, like so many other charities, are in financial difficulties. A letter was sent out centrally from Mary Sumner House and Diocesan Trustees have approved and already sent a per capita contribution on your behalf from Down and Dromore Mothers' Union. I know many of you will be supporting your own families at this time. Mothers' Union may look a little different at the end of this but then so will a lot of other things. Please pray for guidance and direction for when we

come out of this lockdown.

Many of you will have friends and family who have had someone in hospital in Intensive Care unable to visit or know what is happening to your loved one. Others will have lost family members and indeed Mothers' Union members over the past number of weeks and have not had the usual support of family and friends around you. This has been a very difficult time for so many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. It is hard to keep in touch with everyone in the diocese with no meetings. Some branches have set up 'WhatsApp Groups' or are phoning each other and it is still lovely to see the postman bringing a card or a letter. Please do try to keep in touch. We too need to be informed of any changes if any branch loses a member to avoid any mail going to the address as we do not want to cause any distress to families. During this time with our churches closed we have been worshiping very differently. I do hope you can access a Sunday Service by some means. I know recently some have made available the Sunday worship down the telephone. There is also Mid Day Prayers on MU Facebook page and the Mothers' Union websites have prayers and other material to help you at this time and keep you updated. Any of you who know me will know that I love singing and I have so many favourite hymns it is impossible to choose one over another. As I was thinking about everyone cocooning at home a children's hymn came to mind:

***“Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness so we must shine,
You in your small corner and I in mine.”***

Take time to read the rest of the hymn and “shine,” remember He is watching over you.

God be with you always.

With love,

Roberta

Mothers' UNION - Midday Prayers– June 2020:

Monday: **Hope in times of uncertainty**

The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who hope in him. *From Nahum 1:7*

In our anxiety, fear and uncertainty, when hearts are heavy with the load we bear, and there is no one to turn toward but you; yours is the peace that calms, the peace that comforts, the peace that gives us strength to carry on. Yours is the voice we long to hear, the persistent whisper in our ear, 'Be still, and know that I am God'. Yours is the presence in the dark that banishes our fears. Yours is the hand that guides, the footprints in which we walk.

In our anxiety, fear and uncertainty, in confidence we turn to you. Amen.

Tuesday: **Hope in times of isolation**

The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who hope in him. *From Nahum 1:7*

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wednesday: **Hope in times of sickness**

The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who hope in him. *From Nahum 1:7*

We are beginning to learn that this is a fragile world you've placed into our care. But there are times, Lord, when we are reminded of our human fragility, needing your loving care through times of anxiety and illness. Touch us, Lord, with healing hands and words, that we might walk together through this temporary darkness and into your glorious light.

Lord of health and healing, draw near to all who are sick that they may find hope in you. Lord of health and healing, raise us all to fullness of life, that we may find hope in you. Amen.

Thursday: **Hope in times of disappointment**

The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who hope in him. *From Nahum 1:7*

God of all hopefulness, when disappointments weigh us down open our eyes to see your creative ways; new plans for life, new instances of grace.

We pray for renewed vision: to see a path of life emerging through the wilderness of former hopes and dreams. We pray for clear vision: to see a stream of grace flowing through the wasteland of deep disappointments.

God of all hopefulness, inspire us today with fresh revelation of your plans for our lives and our world. Instil in us a sense of adventure to embrace what lies ahead with anticipation and hope. Amen.

Friday: **Hope in times of sadness**

The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who hope in him. *From Nahum 1:7*

God of love and mercy, embrace all those whose hearts today overflow with grief, unanswered questions and such a sense of loss. Grant them space to express their tears. Hold them close through the coming days. Loving Lord, who wipes away every tear from our eye, draw near to all who weep with grief and mourn the loss of that which is dear. In the midst of sorrow be their comfort, in the place of sadness be their hope. The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who hope in him. **Amen.**

Saturday: **Hope in times of need**

The Lord is good, a strong refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who hope in him. *From Nahum 1:7*

O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the need of others, open my ears that I may hear their cries, open my heart so that they need not be without succour. Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to these places. Open my eyes and ears that I may, this coming day, be able to do some work of peace for thee. Amen.

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
onto anyone else unless you want them to.

Telephone: 028 9263 8218

Children's Day, 28 June 2020

Children's Day this year will take place on Sunday 28 June.

Unfortunately in present circumstances, it will not be possible to include the annual Distribution of Church Loyalty and Sunday School Prizes.

The Rector invites all parents, grandparents, relatives, parishioners and friends to make a particular effort to listen into our on-line service on 28 June in support of our young people on their special day.

A Prayer for Children

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESOURCES - FOR USE AT HOME

Useful Website List

Sunday School Kids (<https://sundayschoolkids.com>)

Printable Sunday School lessons, activities, prayers and much more.

Barnabas in Schools (<https://ideas.brf.org.uk>)

BRF have provided an ideas hub – search what you are looking for and they will point you to talk ideas, books, prayer ideas and much more. This is particularly useful if you are planning all age services.

Messy Church (<https://www.messychurch.org.uk>)

The Messy Church website gives tips and suggestions for running sessions, as well as a number of complete sessions with crafts, talk and food ideas. You can also access all the Messy Church logos and branding.

God Venture (<https://godventure.co.uk>)

Victoria Beech has lots of different ideas and resources on her website that help families share faith at home. She has a blog post, reviews Christian books for children and produces different resources for you to buy.

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.

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
Diluted juice
Coffee

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.

Freewill Offering

The Parish Treasurers would like to thank those Parishioners who responded to previous month's notes which invited them to arrange a standing order, make a direct bank payment to the Parish or post a cheque to the Treasurer in lieu of their weekly envelopes during the current emergency.

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

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

Magherahamlet – Hillary Edgar Email: hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com Telephone 028 4481 1361

Parish Magazine

Any contribution for the next edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell (magazine@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org) by Sunday 28 June 2020.



www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org