

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

Magherahamlet Parish Church



July and August 2026



Rector: **The Revd Canon Robert Howard**
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The Rector writes.... Great Expectations

My dear Parishioners

In some situations, we have little doubt what to expect: a sign on the M1 saying Junction 10 is shut means 'Expect Delays'. When we switch on our computers, we expect that they will work and, for some, will connect to the Wi-Fi.

In other situations, the expectations are less clear: the weather in the summer or the response to an invitation. I think our expectations of a given situation or event influences how we assess our experience of it, at the time or afterwards. We think the summer was good if the weather was as warm and sunny as we expected. If a delay is shorter than we expected the experience is viewed more positively. In short, our expectations impact how we feel about something.

Are you a 'glass half full' or a 'glass half empty' type of person? Are your expectations realistic or unrealistic? Of course, our expectations of ourselves can be positive or negative in different situations, depending on our levels of confidence or on past experiences. Have you ever stopped to think about the expectations we have of each other and, by extension, what expectations we have of God? Do we have realistic expectations of those we live with, those we work with and those we spend time with? What are those expectations based on and do we make assumptions that make some expectations unrealistic?

The relationship we have with people, and how well we know them, is often key to setting some realistic expectations. For example, if someone suffers from fatigue following a period of illness, it is not realistic to ask them to do many physical tasks in a short period. But it *may* be realistic if you give them longer to complete the tasks or provide more assistance. Relationships, knowledge and experience are key to setting our expectations of others, of ourselves and especially of God. In the Gospels we are told that 'nothing is impossible with God' (Luke 1v37). This immediately raises our expectations. It may suggest to some people that He will do whatever we ask Him. But it is not so simple. As we build a relationship with God, as we learn more of Him and experience more of Him, we learn that, while nothing is impossible, we need to accept that it is *God's* will, *not ours*, that will be done. That said, the assurance of God's care for us comes in one of my favourite verses, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" (Jeremiah 29:11). Perhaps our only expectation of God is that he loves and cares for us. Whilst we may not understand why certain things happen, we trust that God is in control and will keep us in the embrace of his love. As we think of our expectations for the summer months, let's take time to reflect on our relationships, our knowledge and our experience and use these to set realistic expectations. Think also of

how we can help to meet one another's expectations. May we pray over our expectations of God so that we might come to know and understand his will.

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 Banbridge Parish Church from 1 – 4 September. The Bishop commends it as a special week to encourage us as we prepare for another season of church activities.

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

Congratulations.....

.....To Mrs Evelyn Wightman, Magherahamlet, on the recent celebration of her 95th birthday



.....To Dr David Keith, Annahilt on the recent celebration of his 90th Birthday

.....To Lord and Lady Eames on the recent celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary

Magherahamlet Badminton Club Coffee Morning

Magherahamlet Badminton Club would like to thank everyone who came to support our Coffee Morning on Saturday 30th May.



Thank you also to all who helped set up the Hall, baked for the Cake Table, donated items for the Raffle, planted seeds for the Plant Stall, brought lovely items for serving out, helped in the kitchen throughout the morning and those who helped tidy it all up.

It was all greatly appreciated.

We had a very successful morning and raised £1,600.00 for Church Funds.

We have now finished for the Summer Months and shall resume in September. Any adults wishing to have a go, we play on a Monday evening from 8pm. You would be very welcome.

Have a lovely Summer from Magherahamlet Badminton Club...

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 5 July

Trinity V

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Parish Communion & Holy Baptism	Magherahamlet

Sunday 12 July

Trinity VI

10.00	Morning Prayer	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer	Magherahamlet

Sunday 19 July

Trinity VII

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer	Magherahamlet

Sunday 26 July

Trinity VIII

10.00	Morning Prayer	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer & Holy Baptism	Magherahamlet

Sunday 2 August

Trinity IX

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Parish Communion	Magherahamlet

Sunday 9 August

Trinity X

10.00	Morning Prayer	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer	Magherahamlet

Sunday 16 August

Trinity XI

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 23 August

Trinity XII

10.00 Morning Prayer

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 30 August

Trinity XIII

10.00 Morning Prayer & Litany

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer & Litany

Magherahamlet

Sunday 6 September

Trinity XIV

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 13 September

Trinity XV

10.00 Family Service

Annahilt

Service Sheets

12.00 Family Service

Magherahamlet

Service Sheets

HARVEST FESTIVAL (ANNAHILT)

Thanksgiving for the Blessings of Harvest in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt will take place at Services on **Sunday 27 September 2026** at **10.00 am** and **7.00 pm**.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING

On 7 May 2026 the General Synod agreed to implement a new Child Safeguarding policy to replace Safeguarding Trust, with immediate effect.

The Child Safeguarding Policy is available on the Church of Ireland website <https://safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org/child-safeguarding/>. This website contains the policy and all associated guidance. A link can be found on our Parish website.

One of the major changes in this policy is the reporting procedures. All suspicions, concerns, knowledge or allegations no longer go to the Parish Panel but are instead referred to the RCB Casework Team, who will then make the referral if the information meets the threshold for reporting, before passing this information to the diocese, by informing the Bishop and Diocesan Safeguarding Panel. For Northern Ireland the Casework Team will be Gillian Taylor and Anthony Russell, who can be contacted between 9.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday on 02897441245 or by email on safeguarding@rcbcoi.org.

Emergency and Out of Hours - If you are concerned about immediate risk to any child or adult, contact the PSNI on 999. If you require Social Services advice and support out of hours in regards to a potential safeguarding concern for any child or adult, contact 028 9504 9999.

Updated online training on the Child Safeguarding policy for staff, volunteers and Parish Panel members will be made available within the diocese. It is **essential** that staff, volunteers and Parish Panel members avail of this training as soon as possible.

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.

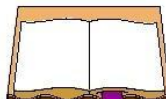
028 9263 8218



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 6 September**.

From the Parish Registers



Christian Marriage

'What God has joined together let no one put asunder

19 June 2026

Spa Presbyterian Church

Edward Samuel William Burrows and Leah Karen Lynn Shields

20 June 2026

Rossharbour Estate, Fermanagh

Chris Stewart and Hayley Gibson

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

Flowers for the Churches

Annahilt

Magherahamlet

July

6

13

20

27

Mrs B Oliver



Mrs S McCurry

August

2

9

16

23

30

Miss V Begley

Church Cleaning, Annahilt



Month

July

3-4	Mrs L McCambley	Mrs E Harrison
10-11	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
17-18	Mrs H Hill	Mr T Hill
24-25	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
31-Aug 1	Mrs J Guiney	Mrs H Cardosi

August

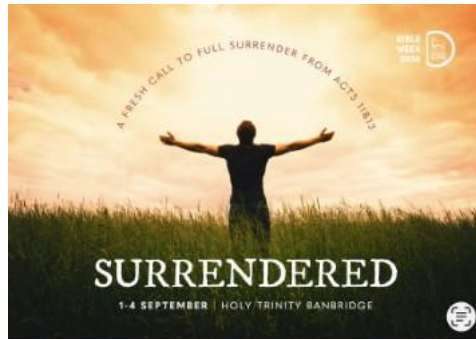
7-8	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
14-15	Mrs L McCambley	Mrs E Harrison
21-22	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
28-29	Mrs E Finney	Mr P Finney

September

4-5	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
11-12	Mrs A Maxwell	Mr R Maxwell
19-20	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
25-26	Mrs E Crawford	

October

2-3	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
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Join us for Bible Week '26

Please plan to join us at the start of September for this year's Diocesan Bible Week with pastor and teacher Dr Tim Robinson. Tim has entitled his teaching series, Surrendered - A Fresh Call to Full Surrender from Acts 11&13.

We'll be hosted by Banbridge Parish, and the Bible Week will run from 1-4 September beginning each evening at 7.45pm.

What's in store

- Tuesday 1 September: Surrendered in Prayer & Worship (Acts 13:1-3)
- Wednesday 2 September: Surrendered to the Word & Spirit (part 1) (Acts 11:19-26)
- Thursday 3 September: Surrendered to the Word & Spirit (part 2) (Acts 13:1-5)
- Friday 4 September: Surrendered in Radical Discipleship & Worldwide Mission (Acts 13:6-12)

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

Dr Tim Robinson is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministries at Dallas Theological Seminary. He was born in Belfast and pastored within the local church in Northern Ireland for 12 years. Tim is passionate about teaching and preaching the Scriptures in a way that is true, clear, relevant, and interesting. His greatest desire is that he might encourage and equip others to faithfully feed souls the Word of God, and form hearts into the likeness of Christ.

Come along!

1-4 September at 7.45pm in Holy Trinity Banbridge, Church Square, Banbridge BT32 4AA.



This year the annual CMSI Ignite conference is taking place on Saturday 12th September (with optional Friday night residential). Again, we are meeting in the beautiful Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre, near Newry. Archbishop Samy Fawzy, one of our global partners from the Province of Alexandria, will be joining us in person. He and his wife Madalaine will bring stories of their ministry lives in the Middle East, a keen understanding and insight into the history and role of the church, and a warm passion for partnership in mission.

Our free children's programme runs throughout Saturday 12th so all parents and carers can come along, listen and learn from the global church and have your little people's needs catered for! Perhaps a spark for mission and the global church will be ignited in them!

Go to [Ignite|cmsireland](https://ignite.cmsireland) to register or phone the office on 028 90 77 50 20 / 01 497 0931.

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 Stephen Chapman Tel (M) 07759 662627

People's Churchwarden David Brown Tel (H) 028 9263 9034

Secretary to the Vestry Colin Hassard Tel (H) 028 9263 8263
(M) 07989746221

Graveyard Matters Ivan Bradford Tel (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



Hello everyone

Annahilt members had a very enjoyable evening at Fernhill Cottage Gardens, Ballynahinch. The Outing took place on Monday 22 June which was a lovely sunny evening. Following a walk around the gardens and a very informative commentary on the extensive growing items we enjoyed some very welcome light refreshments. Magherahamlet 's Outing took place on Saturday 27 June beginning at Castle Espey followed by Morning Coffee at First Comber Presbyterian Church Hall. After retail therapy at 'the Crafty Fox' at Balloo, we enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea at The Old Post Office, Lisbane.

Here we are with the traditional holiday season truly upon us! We hear about committed time, free time, down time and so on. Barbara Bush, the former US First Lady once said something like "no one gets to the end of life and thinks they should have spent more time at the office!" Therefore, how to attempt to be wise with our time and to focus on building relationships in our families, workplaces, communities including our churches? These take unhurried and generous portions of that most precious commodity - time. A book which was published in 2019 by John Mark Comer is called The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry. What an arresting title! We all long for peace, quiet and solitude but are maybe looking in the wrong direction for these inner resources. So back to the drawing board and we shall use summer read to focus on Jesus who was busy but never in a hurry.

Just to remind everyone, this is the 150th anniversary year of the Mothers' Union. It was set up by a Rector's wife - Mary Sumner in 1876 and is celebrated on Sunday 9 August 2026 and has over 4 million members worldwide.

Have a great summer and we look forward to the autumn when our activities start again

Beth

Frances

Dates for your diary:-

Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary Service in Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin on Sunday 9 August 2026 at 3.30pm to celebrate Mary Sumner Day and the 150th anniversary of MU. The speaker will be The Lady Eames. A group of members from this diocese are intending to go on the 10am train, have lunch, attend the service followed by refreshments then return home on the 6.50pm train. Please indicate if you are interested by contacting the Diocesan Secretary, Heather Leckey Tel (H) 028 90284458 (M) 07948 829799 or the Diocesan President, Lynda Thompson Tel (H) 028 90793065 (M) 077659 01060 by **Monday 6 July**.

First Branch Meeting of Autumn season (Annahilt) Monday 21 September 2026 7:30pm. A Pudding Party. More details to follow. Everyone welcome.

First Branch Meeting of Autumn season (Magherahamlet) Date to be confirmed.

Reflection for the theme of sharing our faith

Jesus tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. At this time of year, we seem to have more time to do things, but do we have the courage to witness to our faith with pride, showing respect for others while remaining steadfast to our calling? St. Francis of Assisi said, 'Go out to preach the Gospel, and only if necessary, should we use words.' Mothers' Union was founded on faith; it continues to be built on faith by lives lived in faith for the future of our faith. Let us share this rich faith generously.

Monday - Prayer for Boldness and Clarity.

Heavenly Father, we pray for boldness to share our faith with those around us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may speak with clarity and conviction and that our words and actions may be a reflection of your love and truth. Lord, help us to overcome any fear or hesitation we may have in sharing our faith. Grant us the courage to speak openly and honestly about the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Father, we pray that you would give us wisdom and discernment in our interactions with others.

Tuesday - Prayer for Opportunities to Share

Lord, show us the people you want us to connect with and the opportunities you want us to take to share your love. Father, we pray that you would use us as instruments of your grace. May our lives be a testimony to your goodness and may Lord, we pray

that you would give us a heart for the lost, just as you have a heart for them. Help us to be a witness to your love and truth and to share the good news of salvation with those who do not yet know you.

Wednesday - Prayer for Guidance and Protection.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your guidance and protection as we share our faith. Keep us safe from harm and evil and help us to be a faithful witness to your truth. Lord, we pray that you would surround us with your Holy Spirit. May your Spirit be our constant companion, teaching us and guiding us in all our interactions. Father, we pray that you would protect us from any negative reactions or misunderstandings. Help us to respond with grace and love, even in challenging situations.

Thursday - Prayer of Gratitude.

Lord, thank you for your love and for the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Help us to live a life that is worthy of your calling and to share your love with others. Father, we are grateful for the blessings you have given us. Help us to be generous and giving people, sharing our resources, time, and talents with others. Lord, thank you for your faithfulness and for your endless grace. Help us to follow you with all our hearts and to live out your teachings in our daily life.

Friday - Prayer for a Contagious Faith

Heavenly Father, we pray for a contagious faith. May our lives be a reflection of your love and grace, inspiring others to seek you and to experience the joy of knowing you. Lord, help us to live with the assurance of your presence, regardless of our circumstances. May our faith be a beacon of hope, shining brightly for all to see. Father, we pray that our faith will be contagious, inspiring others to live for you and to experience the fullness of life that comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Saturday - A Prayer for Courage and Wisdom

Heavenly Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit. Give us the courage & boldness to share Your truth and Your Gospel with those around us. Grant us wisdom & discernment so that we may speak Your words and demonstrate Your love in every interaction. Help us to overcome our fears & to see every person as one of Your children. Gracious God, we surrender our fears and weaknesses to you. We pray for your Holy Spirit to be our constant companion, teaching us in the very hour of need what we ought to say, as you promised. Empower us to speak with boldness and clarity, and to be a true witness to Your goodness in the world.

Final Blessing Prayer (monthly prayer from the Prayer Diary 2026)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of faith that we have received from you. Please help us to know more deeply for ourselves the transforming power of the Gospel in our own lives. Give us a greater desire to share the Good News with people

we meet so that they may find hope & may know for themselves the riches of your love. Through your Holy Spirit, may our words and actions bear witness to your presence, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wave of Prayer

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

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

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

9-11 July: El Obeid in Sudan; Butere in Kenya; Nnewi in Nigeria; London in England and the Province of the USA.

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

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

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

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

27-29 July: Northern Zambia in Zambia; Mpwapwa in Tanzania; Gusau & Osun in Nigeria; Sydney in Australia and Rayalaseema in India.

30-31 July: Boga in DR Congo; Manicaland in Zimbabwe; Tanga in Tanzania; Ogoni in Nigeria; Carlisle in England and Melbourne in Australia.

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.**

Annahilt Wednesday Club

Annahilt Wednesday Club rounded off its spring/early Summer programme in mid June with a light hearted session for almost fifty members of the community, followed by refreshments. We commenced with a slideshow of some of the activities during the year, "Pass-the-parcel", light-hearted discussion starters and then followed by three games of "Beetle".

A lovely lunch was provided with delicious sandwiches from Joe Hanna's in Ballynahinch; sausage rolls and home baked cakes, all made by members of the committee.

Before departure, a draw was held for some special prizes and the remaining participants all had a choice of a small item to take away from the "Give-away" table.

We thank the volunteers who organised and ran the event, who helped to set up and clear up afterwards and also thank them for their hard work during the past year.

The Club will resume on Wednesday 16th September 2026 in the Parish Hall at 11am, when all retirees and Seniors from the community are welcome.

The walks in the gardens of HRP Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, in conjunction with Larchfield Community Development Association, will continue over the summer. Please contact Patricia for various dates.



the

Lunch Club

The next time we meet will be Friday 31 July in Pheasant at the usual time of 12.30pm.

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

28 August

25 September

30 October

27 November

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.

Thank You.....

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

Annahilt

Church's Mission Amongst Jewish People (Good Friday)	£ 67.00
Children's Day for Air Ambulance	£ 150.00

Magherahamlet

Children's Day for Air Ambulance	£ 125.00
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Honorary Treasurers

Annahilt

Patricia Halliday - 028 92665310, mobile 07713 257691
email patriciaapc@btinternet.com

Magherahamlet

Abbie Stanford - mobile 07753746940

email abigailstanford@btinternet.com

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 the following items:

- Tinned fruit
- Bags for life
- Salt and pepper
- Super noodles
- Red and brown sauce
- Unisex / Male deodorant

YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Recording of Annahilt Church Services

Free recordings (CD format) are available weekly of the Church services or requested special services.

These CDs are delivered free of charge. If you would like to receive a CD copy, please contact Shirley Robinette on 07974093382

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 23 August 2026.

Registered as a charity with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland
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