

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



September 2023



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



My dear Parishioners

September is a month of endings and beginnings. As summer draws to a close, and shorts and t-shirts are put away for another year, the usual rhythm of life returns with children back at school, youngsters packing up for university or college, and the TV is showing the ads for all the new programmes about to begin. In the church, we look towards all that lies ahead in the next few months – Harvest Festival, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and then, of course, the culmination of it all, Christmas!

But before we get to Christmas, we enter the season of autumn – a time of thanksgiving. Maybe you want to give thanks to God for a lovely summer holiday, for weddings, for friends and family, or for new beginnings. This month in Annahilt and during October in Magherahamlet we give thanks for the blessings of harvest. Do join us as we say thank you for all that is produced for us, especially as we live in a rural area and see farmers go about their daily duties to supply the raw ingredients that sustain us.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul encourages us all to live our lives in an attitude of thankfulness. This can be hard and takes a lot of discipline and requires effort. Living lives of thankfulness doesn't mean that we should just ignore our sufferings or the suffering of others and say they don't matter, because they **do** matter. There is a time to laugh and a time to cry. So many people say they mustn't grumble and imply that their sufferings are too small to be of value compared to other people's; "There are so many worse off than me." That is not necessarily true. All of our struggles and sufferings matter to God, however small they are. Paul understood that if we can learn to be positive and thankful during the good times, then that will help to sustain us through the difficult times. He was in prison when he wrote to the Ephesians. Being

thankful didn't diminish his hardship, but it did help him to endure it.

Each new day brings with it a new beginning and a challenge. So how about a challenge, a challenge to be thankful! To make the effort to see the positive in a situation rather than the downside. To stop us when we start moaning and give thanks instead. And I think that if we can do that, we will discover that whatever life may bring, it will be the better for having consciously tried to live it in an attitude of thankfulness.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our younger parishioners well as they return to school and university. Education was severely disrupted over the period of the pandemic and we all hope that things are now sufficiently stable to enable people to enter fully into all that their educational opportunities have to offer.

Very best wishes to everyone.

Your sincere friend and Rector

Congratulations...

.... to all who were successful in recent school examinations. We hope that all students will continue to give of their best whatever the circumstances. We would be pleased to hear news of the achievements of all of our parishioners.

PRAYER WARRIOR

Do you have a concern or problem and would like someone to pray for you? If so, please contact the Rector (Tel 028 9263 8218) 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.

Prayers for the world

Loving God, Lord of heaven and earth, this earth, our home, belongs to you. Give us grace to love it as you do. Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do, for the good of all people and all of your creation. Strengthen us to stand, as you do, with the vulnerable poor. Give us wisdom to know when we have enough, and the voice to say “enough” to all that harms creation and hurts the poorest.

This earth, our home, belongs to you.

Amen.

Dear Lord, you hold our world in your hands. You hear your creation groaning but you have promised to liberate it from its pain. We pray: renew our world. Forgive those of us who haven't used their power wisely. Give us and our leaders the courage to think beyond our own economies; to seek genuine partnerships so that all people can experience the fullness of life, and that our planet is known to be the common home for all creation and future generations.

Amen.

Lord, we pray for our leaders whose decisions and policies have the potential to impact the lives of millions of people around the world - people who they may never meet, know, or be aware of, but who are your sons and daughters. God, we pray that your spirit will fill our leaders' hearts and heads that they might hear the voices of the impoverished, the oppressed and the vulnerable. God help them see the impact of their actions, and the potential to release healing and hope through just policies.

Amen.

Prayers

In remembrance of the life of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as we acknowledge the First Anniversary of her death

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light.

We remember the life of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and offer thanks for the love she received from you and showed among us.

Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed,

that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ.

We ask that in due time we may share with your servant Elizabeth

that clearer vision promised to us in the same Christ our Lord;

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

For His Majesty The King following the Anniversary of his Accession

Lord God, the Ancient of Days,
you are sovereign over all your people;

Give to His Majesty, King Charles
enduring wisdom and faith

in the service of the people of this land
and of you, his Lord and master.

Grant that his reign may be one of faithful witness

And prove to others a source of hope,
that they may come to know more fully

your Son Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Message of HM The King

“In marking the first anniversary of Her late Majesty’s death and my Accession, we recall with great affection her long life, devoted service and all she meant to so many of us.

I am deeply grateful, too, for the love and support that has been shown to my wife and myself during this year as we do our utmost to be of service to you all.”

Charles R.



Queen Elizabeth II photographed by Cecil Beaton in October 1968. In it, she is standing side on to the camera, wearing her Garter robes and the Grand Duchess Vladimir’s Tiara, made of 15 interlaced diamond circles.

The King has released this photograph, a favourite of his, to mark the first anniversary of his mother’s death.

Decoration of Annahilt Church for Harvest

Saturday 23 September

From **9.30am**

Your assistance with the decoration will be greatly valued

Gifts of flowers, greenery, corn, fruit, vegetables and other foodstuffs will be very gratefully received at the Church on the day before (Friday) from 4.00 – 6.00pm

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 3 September

Trinity XIII

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 10 September

Trinity XIV

10.00 Family Service

Annahilt

Service Sheets

12.00 Family Service

Magherahamlet

Service Sheets

Sunday 17 September

Trinity XV

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 24 September

Trinity XVI

12.00 Magherahamlet

Morning Prayer

Annahilt Harvest Festival

Sunday 24 September 2023

10.00 Harvest Parish Communion *Service Sheets*

Preacher: The Right Revd Dr Ian Ellis
Bishop of Clogher

7.00 Service of Readings and Praise for the Blessings of Harvest

Service Sheets

Supper afterwards in the Parochial Hall

Sunday 1 October

Trinity XVII

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion Magherahamlet

Sunday 8 October

Trinity XVIII

10.00 Family Service Annahilt *Service Sheets*

12.00 Family Service Magherahamlet *Service Sheets*

Annahilt Harvest Appeal

Included with this magazine is a Harvest Thank Offering Envelope. You are asked to think prayerfully about missionary work throughout the world and our obligation to support it. Also there is our on-going responsibility to the poor and destitute. Then please share what you have with the needy by making as worthwhile and generous a thank offering as you can. The Thank Offering envelope may be returned at either of the Harvest Services. By putting your name and/or number on it, tax relief may be claimed through Gift Aid if you pay tax. Mark your Envelope "Gift Aid".

This year we make our Harvest offerings to: The Church Missionary Society, Crosslinks, Christian Aid, Mission to Seafarers, South American Missionary Society.

Annahilt Harvest Supper

Last year, with the lifting of public health restrictions we were delighted to resume hosting the traditional Harvest Supper for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic. Following the success of that event, with great pleasure it is announced that the Harvest Supper will take place this year in the Parochial Hall following the Evening Service on Sunday 24 September at 7.00 pm.

It is hoped that parishioners, visitors and friends will avail of this occasion for engaging in face-to-face fellowship and conversation which was not possible over the various lockdown periods.

Children's Harvest Offerings

The younger members of the congregation are asked to bring a non-perishable item of food (eg a packet of biscuits or a tin of fruit) to the 10am service on Harvest Sunday. They will have the opportunity of making their own Harvest Offerings during the service.

Magherahamlet Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 22 October 2023

Appointment of new Organist at Annahilt

It is with very great pleasure that we congratulate Mr Timothy Howe on his appointment as Organist and Choir Leader at the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt who officially took up duty on Sunday 4 September. He had previously assisted on a part time basis over recent years.

Originally from Londonderry, Tim read music at the University of Edinburgh where he completed both undergraduate and postgraduate studies. He qualified as a secondary school teacher at Homerton College, Cambridge, before teaching in both Sudbury in Suffolk and in Munich. Most recently, he was Head of Music at Ashfield Boys' High School in Belfast for eighteen years before jumping ship and is now self-employed as a property investor and landlord.

Tim teaches piano and theory of music at his house and is also a very keen sportsman. He loves rugby and cricket and is a passionate fan of Liverpool FC!

Married to Hayley, they have two grown-up sons, Nathan and Jamie.

We are delighted to have Tim in post full time. We look forward very much to working with him in developing our musical tradition which has always been a cornerstone in our worship in Annahilt Parish.

Sunday School

Sunday School in Annahilt and Magherahamlet has resumed. It is hoped that our young people in both parishes will be encouraged to take seriously their attendance at Church (in particular at Family Services) and Sunday School. This is of vital importance in developing respect for Sunday, God's Day, at an early age. It also facilitates teachers in carrying out their work if young people are regular in their attendance.

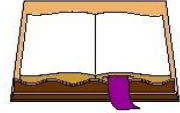
- Children in Annahilt attending Sunday School should initially go to Church for the beginning of the Service and then proceed to the Parochial Hall. Children in Magherahamlet attending Sunday School are asked to go directly to the Parochial Hall at 11.00 am.
- Following Sunday School, the children will remain in the hall until directed

to leave by the teachers.

- Parents / Guardians are asked to please wait for their children outside the Hall and ensure that crowding does not occur at entrances or exits.

Teachers and children are asked NOT to attend Sunday School if they are experiencing symptoms or have been recently recovering or are in an 'at risk' group.

We look forward very much to welcoming new attendees to Sunday School



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

5 August 2023

Reuben Guillermo, son of Otto Jimenez and Rachel Crawford

13 August 2023

Edward Norman, son of Frank Selby and Jamie-Lee Jordan

Christian Marriage

'Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder'

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

24 June 2023

Peter Verhoeven and Emeryn Erwin

4 August 2023

Randall McKeown and Olivia Courtney

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

Flowers for the Churches

Annahilt

Magherahamlet

September

Day

4 Dr W & Mrs Chambers

10

17

24 Harvest



Miss V Begley

Miss V Begley

Mrs F Magorrian

Church Cleaning, Annahilt

Month

September

8-9 Mrs H Hill

15-16 Mrs L McCambley

22-23 Mrs A Maxwell

29-30 Mrs E Crawford



Mr T Hill

Mrs E Harrison

Mr R Maxwell

October

6-7 Mrs J Guiney

13-14 Mrs J Bolas

20-21 Mrs S Chapman

Mrs H Cardosi

Mr A Bolas

Mr S Chapman

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Dear Mothers' Union Members and Friends,

We sincerely hope that you and your families have benefitted from a relaxing summer break.

Annahilt members look forward to meeting up again on Monday 18th September at 8pm in the Parochial Hall. Our aim for the evening will be to discuss and agree on a Programme of monthly activities for our Mothers' Union Branch for the remainder of 2023 and also to explore ways in which we can raise funds to support Mothers' Union work , at home and abroad.

We would also be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to come along just for some company and a chat. Looking forward to seeing everyone,

Magherahamlet members have already met with suggestions made for our Autumn programme.

Kind Regards

Beth
Avril McK & Sally

Esme
Frances & Avril B

Mothers' Union - Midday Prayers - June 2023

Serving Christ in every way

Monday: Seasons

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.

Genesis 8:22

God of the seasons, Lord of the harvest, we bring you our first fruits of praise.

God of the seasons, we give you thanks for the rhythm of life by which our days are set. As day follows night so harvest follows seedtime and we receive once more the provision of our Creator. From summer to winter we are blessed by the crop of his lavish abundance which delights and sustains throughout every season.

Lord of the harvest, we give you thanks for your covenant provision by which our needs are met.

God of the seasons, Lord of the harvest, we bring you our first fruits of praise.

Amen.

Tuesday: Seasons of life

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Throughout life there are seasons and moments of significance.

Times to celebrate life and times to mourn loss. Seasons of laughter and seasons of sadness. Times of new beginnings and times of final endings. Moments of unexpected joy, moments of unwanted challenge. Times to draw close together and times of letting go. Seasons of harmony and seasons of discord.

Moments to look forward with hope, moments to look back with thanksgiving.

Lord of the seasons, God in the moment, we bring you our worship and praise.

Amen.

Wednesday: Serving in every season

Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9 (MEV)

Lord of each and every season, we celebrate your goodness.

We bless your holy name.

Gracious God, the signs of your kingdom are growing but the workers to gather are few. Send us out in every season to the harvest fields of life.

May those who sow and those who reap rejoice in an abundant harvest of goodness and grace.

Give us your strength to carry on throughout changing seasons, knowing that we will reap blessings both now and for eternity.

Lord of each and every season, we celebrate your goodness. We bless your holy name.

Amen.

Thursday: Seasons of change

God changes times and seasons... He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

Daniel 2:21

God of changing times and seasons we give praise that you remain the same whilst your mercies are ever new.

We pray for all who approach a change in season: Where the past has been good, may they be thankful, and filled with vision for the season ahead. Where the past has been hard, may they know rest, and be filled with hope for the season ahead. Give us all grace to embrace seasons of change; to set aside regrets and welcome fresh paths, with trust in your unchanging love.

God of changing times and seasons we give praise that you remain the same whilst your mercies are ever new.

Amen.

Friday: Seasons of fruitfulness

The one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night, is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season.

Psalms 1:2-3

Loving Lord, we take delight in you. Plant your love within us that we may enjoy seasons of abundant fruitfulness.

Lead us, loving Father, to fertile places; to cultivate a harvest of faith. Teach us, gracious Saviour, to nestle close to you; that the Spirit may produce fruit in us. Grow us, heavenly Gardener, into those who have spiritual food to share with the world.

Loving Lord, we take delight in you. Nurture us with your goodness that we may enjoy seasons of abundant fruitfulness.

Amen.

Saturday: Content in every season

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:12-13

Lord, give me a heart of contentment in every season through which I walk.

An attitude of thanksgiving, whether the storehouse for life seems empty or overflowing with blessed provision.

Lord, give me a spirit of contentment in every season through which I walk.

An inner strengthening by Christ, to trust in his constant faithfulness whether tears overwhelm or all is well.

Lord, teach me the secret of contentment for every season through which I live.

The peace beyond all understanding, which guards my heart and turns fear to faith.

Amen.

Freewill Offering

The Parish Treasurers would like to thank those Parishioners who responded to previous invitations to arrange a standing order, make a direct bank payment to the Parish or post a cheque to the Treasurer in lieu of or as a supplement to their weekly envelopes during the current emergency.

If you have not yet availed of one of these methods of 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

Updating Parish records

From the beginning of Covid we have been posting out the Parish Magazine. Some families may have moved house and have their mail re-directed and we are not aware or have not been advised of new details. In order to keep Parish records up to date it would be helpful if this applies to you that you advise Patricia, 028 92665310 or Hillary 028 44811361

Lunch Club

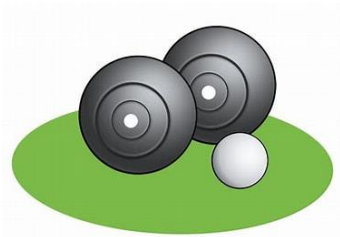
The Lunch Club meet in the Pheasant at 12.30pm on the last Friday of the month and the dates are:

Friday 29 September

Friday 27 October

Friday 24 November

Numbers are creeping up and it 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 028 9263 8952) for further information.



Annahilt Bowling Club

Annahilt Parish Bowling Club plans to resume activities on Wednesday 27th September 2023 in the hall at 8pm.

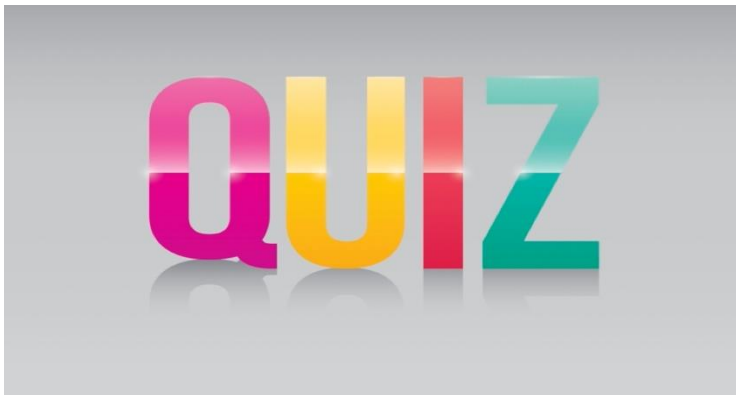
New members are very welcome and there are several of our existing members quite willing to share their knowledge with those who are less familiar with the game.

We play most Wednesday and Saturday evenings from September to March and participate in the Lisburn and District Indoor Bowling League. There is always plenty of craic and a cup of tea. For further details please contact Patricia on 028 92665310.

Re-siting of vehicular entrance to Annahilt Parochial Hall.

As these notes go to press the initial work on the re-siting of the vehicular entrance to the Parochial Hall has commenced. This is the culmination of several years hard work by the current building committee to at least partially address the issue of safety when entering and exiting the Parochial Hall car park. Once completed, when leaving the car park on foot, pedestrians will cross the road with a much greater line of sight of traffic coming from Lisburn and join a new short path up to the church entrance gates.

Over the last few years there have been many meetings with the architects (C3 Architects) who on numerous occasions have then met with or accompanied our representatives to meetings with DfI Roads Service, Historic Environment Division, Council Officials, Planning Dept. and Diocesan Office. An application to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Community Facilities Fund was successful and we have just received a grant of £10,000 towards the work. At present, including the various expenses to date, it is estimated that the total cost of the project will be in the region of £70,000. When this work is completed that will be over £100,000 spent on capital projects during 2022 and 2023-the toilet block at the rear of the church building and the new vehicular entrance to the hall car park. We thank the many individuals over the past number of years, both within and outside the Parish who have been involved in progressing these projects to conclusion.



**Friday 2 November 2023
In The Pheasant
7.45pm.**

**Organised by Annahilt Parish Church in aid of
Development projects
Full details to follow**

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 items listed below:

Toiletries

Cleaning supplies

Small packs of toilet roll

Nappies

Baby wipes

Shower gel

Soaps

Small boxes of 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. Although circumstances have changed considerably since the various lockdown periods the website continues to host online services each Sunday. It also contains a list of upcoming church services and news from our group of parishes, as well as downloadable versions of the parish magazine. The site will be continually developed, so if you have any submissions, suggestions or requests relating to the website, these can be sent to admin@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org.



www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Parish Magazine

Any contribution for the next edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell (roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com) by Sunday 17 September 2023.