

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



February & March 2025



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



The Rector writes.....

Signs of Hope in a Little Flower

My dear Parishioners,

When I lived at the previous Rectory at 2 Loughaghery Road I delighted at this time of year in the snowdrops which appeared annually. A brave green shoot, already with milky white petals.

Years ago snowdrops were called Candlemas Bells, as they bloom in our part of the world around 2nd February when we celebrate Candlemas. Snowdrops symbolise all sorts of things including purity. They also symbolise hope. While the days are lengthening now, the darkness of winter persists and Spring may still seem some distance away. Catching sight of a snowdrop refreshes our hope that Spring will come.



We need signs of hope. Even if life is going smoothly, when we hear news about the wider world, darkness can threaten to overwhelm us. We may feel powerless in the face of developments beyond our control or understanding.

Long ago a man called Simeon had been faithfully waiting for a sign of hope. The Gospel records that when Mary and Joseph brought their baby son Jesus to the Temple, at Candlemas, Simeon saw in the child the “Messiah”, the promised hope for the world to become a better place, more like the kingdom of God on earth. Hope, it turned out, lay not in a self-confident hero offering simple solutions and ‘right/wrong’ answers to the world’s problems, but in a helpless baby born into a modest family in relative obscurity. A reminder of our shared vulnerability and mutual dependence.

Simeon – and Luke, who told the story – recognised the baby Jesus Christ as a sign of hope. Of God revealed in the world; bringing light into darkness. Whether you own this belief or not, there is little doubt that being alert to signs of fresh life and hope, smiling when we recognise them, and at the end of each day, giving thanks for them, lifts our spirits, and the spirits of those who see and maybe return our smile. Like the snowdrop, in a tiny way, making the world just a little bit better.

What signs of hope will you find and share this month and over the coming year?

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

Congratulations...

...to Andrew McGregor, Annahilt and Ellen Heslip on their recent marriage.

Memories of Christmas 2024

It was wonderful that we were able to celebrate this past Christmas with the various seasonal events in our Group of Parishes.

Unfortunately, it was not practical for the Sunday School in Annahilt to hold its traditional Nativity Pageant. However, an All-Age Christingle Service took place in the Church of the Ascension on Christmas Eve with The Baillie's Mills Accordion Band participating. The Band were very well received. Everyone joined wholeheartedly with the Band in singing the familiar carols and also listened to a selection played by the Band alone.

Also on Christmas Eve, a Nativity Pageant took place in Magherahamlet which was very moving and was performed excellently.

Christmas gifts donated by families in both parishes Sunday 8 December were given afterwards to Star NI.

On Sunday 15 December in the afternoon there was the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in Annahilt. The music was led by a united Choir of both Annahilt and Magherahamlet. It was wonderful to have boys and girls from Annahilt Primary School Choir participating again. The lessons were read by representatives of the parochial organisations, the Chairman of the School Board of Governors, Mr John Harshaw and the Mayor, Councillor Kurtis Dickson, who was Guest of Honour.

On Sunday 22 December in the evening, the traditional United Carol Service in Spa and Magherahamlet was held. It took place this year in Magherahamlet Presbyterian Church. There were readers from Spa and Magherahamlet Presbyterian and the Parish Church. The music, led by choir members from all three churches, consisted of many traditional congregational carols and a number of choir anthems.

The First Communion of Christmas was celebrated in Annahilt with representation from parishioners of 'the Glebe' and other visitors.

The customary Christmas Day Family Service in Annahilt and the Parish Communion Service in Magherahamlet also took place.

To all who contributed in any way, we say 'well done' and a sincere 'thank you'. The very positive feedback from parishioners has been very much appreciated.



Dear Canon Howard and Parishioners of Annahilt and Magherahamlet Churches,

Thank you very much for your generous donation of gifts and financial donations to Star NI at Christmas. Your support every year makes a huge difference and is very much appreciated.

Best wishes

Ruth, Cara, Jolene and Kate

The STARNI Team

Prayers

A prayer for all in positions of civic responsibility, especially the First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Deputy First Minister, Emma Little-Pengelly and the Executive on the first anniversary of the return of devolved government in Northern Ireland.

Lord God, we pray for those to whom you have entrusted the power to rule among people.

Help them to remember their responsibility to you, and to be trustworthy in using it until the day of account that your kingdom shall be prospered and they shall be found your good servants; in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for use during Lent:

Teach us, O God, so to use this season of Lent that we may draw closer to our Lord, and in fellowship with him may learn to hate sin, to overcome temptation and to grow in holiness, that our lives may be strengthened for your service and used for your glory.

We ask this in Christ's name. **Amen.**

A prayer for the sick and those recovering from sickness and all those in need, in particular the King, the Princess of Wales and Sarah, Duchess of York:

O God, we pray for one another;
Give us each on the blessing we need.

We ask your healing for the sick, your strength for the tempted and your joy for the downcast.

Answer the prayers which we try to put into words, and the prayers which you read in our hearts,

According to your perfect love made known in Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers for Ukraine

The following prayers are appropriate for use on the 3rd anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine:

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world:

We commend to your merciful care the people and government of Ukraine that, being guided by your providence, they may dwell secure in your peace.

Grant to their leaders and all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will.

Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve their people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart in the nations of the world, that working and witnessing together, we may live in justice and peace and change the hearts of those who would make for conflict and war; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 on to anyone else unless you want them to.



028 9263 8218

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"' Psalm 122 v1

Sunday 2 February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Sunday 9 February

IV Sunday before Lent

10.00 Family Service

Annahilt

(followed by Light Refreshments in the Parochial Hall)

12.00 Family Service

Magherahamlet

Sunday 16 February

III Sunday before Lent

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 23 February

II Sunday before Lent

10.00 Morning Prayer

Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer

Magherahamlet

Sunday 2 March

Sunday before Lent

10.00 Parish Communion

Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion

Magherahamlet

Wednesday 5 March

Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm Penitential Service

Annahilt

Service Sheets

Sunday 9 March

Lent I

Church Missionary Society Sunday

10.00 Family Service Annahilt *Service Sheets*

Preacher Mrs Jenny Smyth, Mission Director CMSI

(followed by Light Refreshments in the Parochial Hall)

12.00 Family Service Magherahamlet *Service Sheets*

Preacher Mrs Jenny Smyth, Mission Director CMSI

(followed by Famine Lunch in the Parochial Hall)

Sunday 16 March

Eve of Saint Patrick's Day

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt *Service Sheets*

12.00 Morning Prayer Magherahamlet *Service Sheets*

Sunday 23 March

Lent III

10.00 Morning Prayer Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer Magherahamlet

Sunday 30 March

Lent IV (Mothering Sunday)

10.00 Family Service Annahilt *Service Sheets*

12.00 Family Service Magherahamlet *Service Sheets*

LOOKING AHEAD.....

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday 13 to Good Friday 18 April

You are invited to follow the Passion of our Lord at services on Palm Sunday in both Annahilt and Magherahamlet at 10.00 and 12.00 respectively and nightly throughout Holy Week at 8.00 pm Holy Week

VICTORY IN EUROPE

You and your friends are invited to a Service to mark the 80th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War in Europe

VE DAY SERVICE

Wednesday 7 May 2025

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

7.30 m

and afterwards at a Reception

in

The Parochial Hall

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



England, Wales & Northern Ireland

FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025

Time to be confirmed

Ballynahinch First Presbyterian Church

Church Missionary Society, Ireland Sunday

This will be observed on the First Sunday in Lent **9 March** The preacher will be the Mission Director of CMSI, Mrs Jenny Smyth, who we look forward to welcoming back to both Churches.

Light Refreshments will be served in the Parochial Hall following the Service in support of CMSI.

In Magherahamlet, following the Service there will the customary 'Famine Lunch' of soup, cheese, bread & shortbread.

Saint Patrick celebrated in Saul and Downpatrick on Monday 17 March



An invitation to the Diocesan St Patrick's Day Celebrations 2025

Our annual St Patrick's Day celebrations gather visitors of all denominations from Ireland and abroad. The theme for 2025 is *Godly Leadership* and you are warmly invited to join The Bishop for worship and a complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews' on Monday 17 March.

We look forward to welcoming His Honour David Turner KC as our preacher at the Festival Service in Down Cathedral and the Revd Canon Maurice Elliott as the

preacher at Saul.

The calling, training, and releasing of new leaders is a vital strand in The Bishop's vision for the diocese and both our speakers are leaders of note.

Originally from Derry/Londonderry, David Turner is a recently retired Circuit Judge who sat in Essex and London. An Anglican all his adult life, David is, among other things, Chancellor of the Diocese of Chester, Deputy President of the Clergy Discipline Commission and a Reader and regular preacher at All Souls' Church, Langham Place.

Canon Maurice Elliott is Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, prior to which he spent fifteen years in parochial ministry including as rector of Shankill Parish Lurgan. In terms of training and ministerial formation, his passion is for mission and church growth, leadership and team ministry, biblical preaching, and personal spiritual development.

PROGRAMME

9.15am: Holy Communion at Saul

10.15am: Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

11.45am: Festival Service in Down Cathedral

Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave

1.00pm: Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'

Details of transport to Saul can be found on the diocesan website (downanddromore.org) or via the QR code.

We look forward to seeing you!

Transport to Saul

From **8.15 am** private buses will leave from the Mall for the communion service and pilgrimage.

The last bus for the communion service leaves at **8.45 am**.

The last bus for the pilgrimage leaves at **9.45 am**.

The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at **10.40 am**

Register of Vestry Members

The Register of Vestry men and women will be updated and reviewed at a meeting following Morning Service in Annahilt and Magherahamlet on Sunday 23 February 2025.

The individuals recorded in the Register may stand for election to the Select Vestry at the Easter General Vestry and may vote in the election. Anyone wishing to be registered must be subscribers to Parish Funds and complete a Form of Declaration by 23 February so that their name may be added to the Register.

Forms are available from the Churchwardens,

Parochial Annual General Meetings or Easter Vestries 2025

Please note the Annual General Meeting or Easter Vestry of each parish in the Group:

Annahilt	Monday 31 March	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Magherahamlet	Wednesday 2 April	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall

As usual, the past year will be reviewed and the Churchwardens and Select Vestries for another year will be elected.

While only registered Vestrypersons may vote or stand for office, attendance is open to all parishioners. The meetings are occasions when we may learn more about what is happening in our own parish, diocese and the wider Church, as well as participating in the annual elections.

Update from Nepal (February 2025)

The Revd Roger Thompson (CMS Ireland Partnership Coordinator for Nepal) writes:

“Greetings from CMSI!

Many, many thanks to all at Annahilt and Magherahamlet for all your support both in prayers and in finances for the work of the Society. In the last 12 months your donations have been helping fund a young man in Kathmandu (SS) who is pioneering a new CMSI/Asia CMS co-Mission Partner programme training the next generation of church leaders.

SS is a dynamic and gifted evangelist and bible teacher, fluent in English and with a passion to see the church thrive in Nepal. To that end he works for an organisation affiliated to Asia CMS training local church leaders, with a special emphasis on women’s leadership training and family ministry – all in a predominantly Hindu country where church growth can be a challenging issue due to sensitivities around tolerance towards minorities.

He has a powerful testimony, which involved him travelling to India to study the Scriptures and Theology to MTh level at the South Asian Institute of Advanced Christian Studies in Bangalore. He then spent 2 years teaching church planting amongst Muslims in India and following a calling to return to Nepal he now seeks to strengthen church leaders working in remote rural areas. Influenced by the story of Nehemiah he sensed a vocation to serve in a context where Christian evangelists face many challenges, and ministry must be characterised by service rather than power, depending on long-term, committed intercessory prayer.

Our Director Jenny Smyth first met SS when she visited Kathmandu in 2023 and we then invited him to Northern Ireland last September when he was the main speaker at our Ignite Conference in Dromantine, near Newry. He had a big impact on conference delegates with his clear and inspiring message, challenging us to model our lives on Christ, and also following the example of early church leaders such as Paul and Timothy. He also spent time in parishes in Newry, Belfast and Ballymena where he preached, took part in pastoral visits and built up a number of ongoing friendships.

A few of those he met are planning to make an exchange visit to Nepal next October/November where they hope to meet family, colleagues and some of the student pastors. Please do continue to pray for SS, his wife A and all his colleagues working in Nepal under the auspices of Asia CMS.

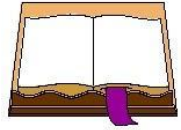


CMS Ireland, Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park, 1st Floor, 245a Upper Malone Road, Belfast, BT17 9LA.

Tel: +44 (0)28 9077 5020 (Belfast office)

Website: www.cmsireland.org

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'

22 December 2024

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

James Henry, son of James and Suzanne Harrison, Cabra Road

Christian Burials

'In Christ shall all be made alive'

8 December 2024

Eva Dobson, formerly of Baillie's Mills Road

Following a Service in the Church of the Ascension, burial took place in the adjoining Churchyard

In the Funeral Address the Rector said, "As amazing as this sounds, the memories we have of Eva have been preserved in the pages of Scripture. They were written down many thousands of years ago, and by a man who was not even a part of this family. His name was King Lemuel. And even though he didn't know Eva, he described her perfectly when he described the perfect woman in the book of Proverbs: 'A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life'.

Noel and Eva were married for over sixty years. And they were blessed with two children Charles and Christina and two grandchildren, Caleb and Corbin, whom they loved dearly. Eva always looked well and made sure her family was well-dressed and warm. 'She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over

the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. She supported her family. 'Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate'.

Now, Eva has received her reward. Eva loved God, and in everything she did, God's Word was written on her heart.

May all who knew Eva be comforted in remembering her long, full life and rejoice in this strong, loving family she built. We extend to Noel, Christina, Charles and all the family circle our deep and prayerful sympathy.

28 December 2024

James (Jim) Finlay

Following Services at home and in the Church of the Ascension, burial took place in adjoining Churchyard.

Jim grew up in Serpentine Parade, Belfast with his parents James and Elizabeth and his siblings, Betty and David. He attended Mountcollyer School and later went to Whiteabbey Mill to train as a Fitter. From there he moved to Purity Brand Foods where he met and married Margaret. Together they had a daughter Rita and a son Stewart.

Jim's next move was to Gracey's at Hillhall where he met Martha. Together they started a small food processing business in Maghaberry which grew and developed into the enterprise it is today.

In 1985 Jim and Martha moved to Legacurry. In 1989 their son James was born.

Jim's work was his passion, including being Chief Groundsman at the Factory. He also enjoyed golf, fishing and tending to his garden.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Martha and the entire family circle in their great loss.

4 January 2025

Catherine (Kay) McClay

Following a Service in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt burial took place in adjoining Churchyard

Kay was born in Tinakely, Wicklow, on the 12th June 1946, the daughter of Denis and Bridget Keogh and was one of 11 children.

Her youth was spent on the family farm, tending to pigs and other animals. She learnt much from her father. Following him around in the garden and fields earned her a love of horticulture.

She was a sociable child and often went off with her friends. One time the rest of the family were sitting round the TV when it suddenly malfunctioned. Upon going outside to check the aerial, they discovered the piece of timber propping it up had been removed by Kay to play camogie in the garden!

As much as she loved country life, Kay dreamed of a life in the big city. Her passion for fashion lured her to the dazzling lights of Dublin... and all its shopping opportunities.

The move proved to be life-changing – in more ways than one.

Kay entered a beauty contest, ‘The Queen of Hearts’ and scooped the top prize after catching the eyes of the judges. But she also caught the eye of a young holidaymaker – a young man from Greenisland called John.

Two years later, in 1967, with Kay just 20, they married in Islington, London.

Family life began back in Northern Ireland, at 23 Beechill Park South, Belfast. But when Dave arrived to join Susan and Richard in the fold, they needed a bigger abode.

Kay spotted a ramshackle semi-detached up for sale ... 2 Old Cultra Road and set about making it into a magnificent family home which became full of great memories. She would take great delight in trawling antique shops and furniture stores, always with a keen eye for a bargain - and she was an expert haggler.

It was an open house and guests were made to feel especially welcome. Kay was always there with a smile, ready for a cup of tea and a chat in the kitchen. She had a great sense of humour and a good laugh was guaranteed.

Christmas was always very dear to her. Decorations, trees, twinkling lights and an inordinate amount of presents stacked under the tree.

Kay was a prolific shopper. The garden also brought her much joy and she would take great care – and time – lovingly tending to the myriad of flowers and plants

Kay was a devoted family person – a loving wife, a devoted mother and mother-in-law and a loving granny.

We extend our deep sympathy to all the family circle.

11 January 2025

Justin Mark Stanford, Ballynahinch Road, Dromara

Following a Service in Ballykeel Baptist Church burial took place in Magherahamlet Parish Churchyard

Justin will be remembered as an esteemed colleague and friend to many, He played a vital role for over 20 years serving the community in JB Browns. The Rector fondly recalls visiting Justin and Yvonne at home over the years and finding that he was invariably out in the shed attending to various repair jobs brought home from Browns.

Subsequently Justin developed a passion for flying and became a renowned and skilful flyer of helicopters.

In more recent years Justin's health declined, with a long term illness for which he faced extensive treatment with dignity and grace. His Christian faith and the devoted care he received sustained him to the end.

Justin will be sorely missed by all who knew him especially for his practical resourcefulness, his good humour and his devotion as a husband and father.

We extend our sympathies to his wife Yvonne and son Mark and the entire family circle in their loss and bereavement.

25 January 2025

George Porter

Following Services at Brown's Funeral Home, Ballynahinch and in Calry Parish Church burial took place in Drumcliffe Churchyard

Over the years George Porter was regular visitor to our community in Annahilt and surrounding districts. He was a devoted and faithful servant of God through his life and witness. Over the years he held many of the Offices open to a lay person in the Church of Ireland. When he visited this locality, he was a regular worshipper at the Church of the Ascension until his health declined.

George was a devoted family person. We extend our deep and prayerful sympathy to his son Robert, daughters Elaine and Sandra and their families in their great loss.

Flowers for the Churches

Annahilt



Magherahamlet

February

2 The Rector
9
23

The Rector

March

2
9 Mrs B Harrison
16
23
30

Church Cleaning, Annahilt

Month

February

7-8 Mrs S Chapman
14-15 Mrs A Maxwell



Mr S Chapman
Mr R Maxwell

21-22	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapman
28 – Mar 1	Mrs L McCambley	Mrs E Harrison

March

7-8	Mrs A Maxwell	Mrs R Maxwell
14-15	Mrs E Crawford	
21-22	Mrs S Chapman	Mr S Chapma
28-29	Mrs J Guiney	Mrs H Cardosi

April

4-5	Mrs S Chapman	Mrs S Chapman
11-12	Mrs H Hill	Mr T Hill

Parochial Hall Cleaning, Annahilt

	week commencing	week commencing
Susan Wilson	25 November 2024	14 April 2025
Shirley Robinette	9 December 2024	8 April 2025
Gail Gibson	23 December 2024	12 May 2025
Linda Hassard	6 January 2025	26 May 2025
Maire Brown	20 January 2025	9 June 2025
Lesley McKeown	3 February 2025	23 June 2025
Louise McGregor	17 February 2025	7 July 2025
Heather Bradford	3 March 2025	21 July 2025
Heather Cardosi	17 March 2025	4 August 2025
Jennifer Guiney	31 March 2025	18 August 2025

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Dear Mothers' Union Members and Friends,

In December, members attended the Wellness Group's Christmas Lunch in the Parochial Hall. Magherahamlet members had their customary Parcel Night in the Rectory. Both events went very well and were enjoyed very much by all who were there.

In January, Annahilt members filled bags for patients being admitted to hospital.

In March, instead of meeting on the 17th which is a Bank Holiday, we will attend the Maundy Thursday Service in Church on 28th at 8.00 pm and afterwards at the Parochial Hall for refreshments.

In Magherahamlet, at our rescheduled meeting on 22 January, our own Lillian Crompton gave us a very detailed talk on her trip to the Chelsea Flower Show some years ago. It was a coach tour which included Wesley Gardens, Kew Gardens and other sightseeing. The talk was well presented with a great night had by all. Well done Lillian.

Magherahamlet Branch are also reminded of the World Day of Prayer Service in Ballynahinch First Presbyterian Church on Friday 7 March. Time to be confirmed.

We all express our deep sympathy to Elaine Finney on the recent death of her father.

With very kind regards and every blessing

Beth
Esme

Avril / Sally
Frances / Avril B

Midday Prayers February 2025:

2-4 February: Matlosane, South Africa; Mumias, Kenya; Eha-Amufu, Nigeria; Ballarat, Australia; Niagara, Canada and North Kerala, India.

5-7 February: Botswana; Marsabit, Kenya; Idah & Jebba, Nigeria; Salisbury, England and Andaman & Car Nicobar Islands, India.

9-11 February: Lainya, South Sudan; Ankole, Uganda; Abuja & Lagos-West, Nigeria; Lichfield, England and Karnataka North, India.

12-14 February: Matana, Burundi; South Ankole, Uganda; Morogoro, Tanzania; Ohaji/Egbema, Nigeria; New Westminster, Canada and Dornakal, India.

16-18 February: Bentiu, South Sudan; Bunyoro Kitara, Uganda; Okigwe-North & Omu-Aran, Nigeria; Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh, All Ireland and Krishna-Godavari, India.

19-21 February: Free State, South Africa; Bondo, Kenya; Ogbia & Offa, Nigeria; Swansea & Brecon, Wales; Argentina and Uruguay.

23-25 February: Wau, South Sudan; Kigeme, Rwanda; Bauchi, Nigeria; St David's, Wales and Mandalay, Myanmar.

26-28 February: Mundri, South Sudan; Madi & West Nile, Uganda; Isikwuatu, Nigeria; Chichester, England and Seoul, South Korea.

Annahilt Wednesday Club

The Annahilt Wednesday Club had almost seventy people at its Festive Lunch just before Christmas 2024.

Entertainment was led by Dr John Erwin with members of Baillies Mills Accordion Band. A delicious light lunch was served by The Mulberry Tree restaurant, Seaforde, and the white bearded man in a red suit called in on his way past. Feedback has been very positive and the committee has even pencilled in a date for 2025, should sufficient funding become available.

As these notes go to the magazine editor the January meeting of the group has just taken place. Almost thirty members of the Parish and the Community gathered in a lovely warm hall on a cold and frosty morning. Plenty of tea and coffee and chat about the recent weekend of wind and power cuts. Patricia shared some information which

may be of benefit to those in the community and also about several forthcoming events in the locality. Some members signed up for walks in Hillsborough Castle Gardens and a tour of Hillsborough Castle in the springtime. The session concluded with a fun game of Beetle.

Wednesday 26th February is the next Wednesday Club and entertainment will be supplied by Mr Brian Johnston. The following month, on Wednesday 19th March, our own Trevor Hill will give a presentation on the "Hillsborough Fort Guard".

All Seniors and Retirees in the community, including our friends from Magherahamlet are invited and most welcome to come along, 11am -12.30pm for Coffee and Craic.

Annahilt Parish Bowling Club

The Bowling Club continues most Wednesdays and the first and third Saturday of each month. Wednesdays or other week-nights there are usually League matches and Saturday evenings for club bowls and/or club competitions. Several of our members reached the finals of the Lisburn Zone heats of the National Championships and our Captain, Patricia Halliday, won the Ladies Singles and is progressing to the Association finals in Belfast later in February.

Lunch Club

The next time we meet will be Friday 28 February in the Pheasant at the usual time of 12.30pm.

Subsequent Lunch Club meeting will take place on the following date:
28 March



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**

Big Breakfast

**Saturday 15th March 2025
10am -12.30pm**



**Legacurry Orange Hall
2, Glebe Road, Hillsborough,
BT26 6NE**

**Admission £10.00
All welcome**

FRIDAY 21 MARCH

BEETLE DRIVE

In

Magherahamlet Parochial Hall

at

7.30 PM

Donations in favour of Parish Funds.

Light refreshments (Tea, Coffee, Biscuits) will be served

Financial matters

Mission Support 2024-2026

In the last magazine we had information about one of the overseas projects Annahilt Parish is currently supporting - Water Drops Boma Projects in Kajiado Diocese.

This month we have some information on our second overseas project. We will be supporting Church Mission Society Ireland's Local Mission Partner (LMP) programme in Nepal. SS (his name) lives and works in a sensitive context and is passionate about leadership development for the fast growing church in Nepal. He develops training materials and teaches at National Churches Fellowship training centre in Kathmandu. SS also visits fledgling churches to encourage, teach and mentor congregations. As a recently married man, SS has increasing responsibilities at home. Supporting the LMP programme will help SS continue to walk in mission with God. CMS Ireland is partnering with Asia CMS and CMS Africa in supporting local people sharing God's good news in their own communities.

Gift Aid

As we approach the end of the tax year, it is a good opportunity to remind all households that have signed Gift Aid declarations to advise the Treasurers if they are no longer tax payers. Gift Aid declarations in this case would have to be cancelled. If you are/will be paying tax and have not signed a Gift Aid declaration, please consider

doing so as the Parish could benefit by an extra 25% of your giving at no cost to you. For either instances please contact Patricia (Annahilt) or Abbie (Magherahamlet).

Thank you.....

.....to all who contributed to the special collections in support of the following charities:

Annahilt

Bible Society NI	£ 51.00
Star NI	£ 52.00
Bishops' Appeal (Israel & Gaza)	£67.00
Star NI	£116.00
Mayor's Charity	£366.67
Dean of Belfast's Sit Out	£153.00
Thy Children's Society	£283.00
Leprosy Mission	£145.00

Magherahamlet

Bishops Appeal	£127.60
Star NI	£164.00
Dean's Sit Out	£345.00
Leprosy Mission	£145.00

Parish Magazine

With increasing printing and postage costs for distribution of the Parish magazine, would there be any additional households happy to receive notification via email when the magazine is available on the website?

If so, please email

patriciaapc@btinternet.com or info@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Contact details

While we try to keep contact details up to date, sometimes parishioners move house and we don't have your new address.

Some no longer have or use landline telephone numbers and only use mobile numbers. It would be helpful if your details have changed, if you could contact Patricia (Annahilt) on 028 92665310, Mobile 07713 257 691, email patriciaapc@btinternet.com or Abbie (Magherahamlet) on 07753 746940, email abigailstanford@btinternet.com with up to date details. The vast majority of contact numbers we hold are landline numbers.

Your contact details are only used for Parish purposes.

Finance Matters – Magherahamlet

If you are a UK taxpayer, you can boost the amount of every donation you make by giving through “Gift Aid”. This is an Income Tax relief scheme created to help charities like our church get the most out of funds that they receive. Gift Aid enables the church to recover the base rate of tax on your donation. The scheme adds 25 pence on each £1.00 you give at no extra cost to you.

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

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

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.

Annahilt Parish has been supporting the Lisburn Foodbank for some years and, just before Christmas, the following letter was received by the Parish.



Lisburn Foodbank
1-3 Graham Gardens
Lisburn
BT28 1XE

Tel: 07756 965868
Email: team@lisburnfoodbank.org
Web: lisburn.foodbank.org.uk

20th December 2024

To the congregation of Annahilt Parish Church,

On behalf of Lisburn Foodbank I wish to thank you for all the incredible donations of food you have made to our foodbank throughout 2024.

This year, Annahilt Parish Church has donated 85.5 kg. This amount of food helps us to make 204 meals.

Lisburn Foodbank is a non-profit charity and depends upon the generosity and support of the local community, therefore we greatly appreciate your donation.

Yours Sincerely,

Grainne Maginnis

Grainne Maginnis

The Foodbank Team

The Parish will continue to support the Foodbank and a particular request from the Foodbank this month is for items listed below:

- Long life milk
- Sugar
- Custard
- Rice pudding
- Small diluting juice
- Jam
- Biscuits
- Porridge

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 most weeks. 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 March 2025.

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