**News from the Parishes**

**Church of the Ascension, Annahilt Magherahamlet Parish Church**

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**June 2024**

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**Rector: The Revd Canon Robert Howard**

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**The Rector writes…..**

Forty years ago, I was made Deacon and one year later ordained Priest by the then Bishop, the Rt Revd Dr Robert Eames for service in this Diocese of Down & Dromore, in which I initially ministered for just over 4 years. I then was called to serve in the diocese of Connor for five and a half years before returning to Down & Dromore 30 years ago. These four decades have been wonderful. I have truly loved each of the parishes in which I have served and the time spent in each.

I remember my first four years as a newly ordained deacon and priest in the Churches of St Patrick, Donaghcloney and Holy Trinity, Waringstown. Until then I had lived my whole life in the Republic and felt it important to experience life in the Church of Ireland in Northern Ireland. I came to learn and will be forever in debt to the then Rector, Canon John Moore who taught me so much. His Ministry of Word and Sacrament, his spirituality, his faithful and effective pastoral contact with people, his gifts of diplomacy, discretion and friendliness together with the love and support of the people in the parish in that early period formed me for all that would follow.

I remember the next five and a half years in Saint Ninian’s Parish, Belfast serving under the Rt Revd Dr Samuel Poyntz, originally my sponsoring Bishop in my native Cork and was by then Bishop of Connor. Saint Ninian’s was a very different parish in a suburban situation with an ageing population. Yet, people are in many ways the same everywhere and the response of parishioners in building and developing their faith was magnificent. The musical tradition was a facet of parochial life I particularly cherished. At that time, I was also asked to take on two other contrasting, fulfilling and exciting opportunities as Chaplain to the Throne Hospital and to the University of Ulster of Jordanstown and Belfast.

Returning to Down and Dromore in 1994 I became Rector of Annahilt and Magherahamlet and have remained in this Group of Parishes ever since. These years have been very dear to me as we celebrated two significant anniversaries, the 150th Anniversary of the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt and the 200th Anniversary of Magherahamlet Parish Church. Over the years there has been a very progressive building of relations between both parishes which has been genuinely welcomed by parishioners and friends alike. The parochial facilities in both parishes have been developed and extended. The worship and the liturgy in both Churches have also moved forward.

Since 1994 we have faced a number of challenges, but even so, it has been a joy to serve here. Every step of the way, I have felt the support of you all when dealing with difficult issues, most recently the Covid pandemic. Yet, it is precisely through embracing the Cross that the Lord forms us. And look at our blessings.

On St Peter’s Day, 29 June, 1984 I was one of four who entered Holy Orders. One is now retired. Three of us remain in active ministry although I am the sole ‘survivor’ who continues to serve in Down & Dromore. The second reading at each of my Ruby Jubilee Services in Annahilt (10.00 am) & Magherahamlet (12.00 noon) on Sunday 16 June will come from Saint Paul’s letter to the Romans Chapter 8. I chose this because the Apostle expresses very well my confidence that God’s love and strength would guide us safely through all the challenges that we face in serving the Lord.

It says ‘I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’.

I believe I have experienced God’s guidance, love protection and strength throughout these past 40 years. I am confident that we will continue to experience his guidance, love, protection and strength in the years to come.

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

**Congratulations…**

….to Bert & Ruth Carlisle, Annahilt on the recent celebration of their 63rd Wedding Anniversary

….to Ruth Carlisle on recently attaining the milestone of 90 years.

….to Ian David Maxwell, Annahilt, on his recent marriage to Helen Frances Moore, Jordanstown.

**Thank You…**

…to Magherahamlet Badminton Club for recently organising and hosting a Coffee morning with a Cake and Plant Sale in support of Parish Funds and to all who supported the event in any way. The splendid sum of £1568 was raised.

**REMEMBERING THE CORONATION**

At the beginning of May we observed the first anniversary of the amazing spectacle of the Coronation of King Charles III, the first British monarch crowned in over 70 years.

One year ago, the Coronation Service on Saturday 6 May 2023 was a wonderful mix of ancient tradition and modern additions. For many, one of the most moving moments was the greeting of the King into Westminster Abbey by a small choirboy and the reply of “I come to serve, not to be served.” What a perfect and simple phrase; one for us all to keep uppermost in our lives. On the eve of the Anniversary, Sunday 5 May, 2024 we remembered this historic event and we continue to keep King Charles in our prayers as he develops his new role, especially as he continues to be treated for serious illness.

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**Prayers For the King**

Lord God, in your power you provide for your people

and rule over them in love:

Grant to your servant Charles, our King

the spirit of wisdom and government,

that being devoted to you with his whole heart,

he may so wisely govern,

that during his reign your church may be protected,

and Christian devotion may continue in peace;

that so persevering in good works to the end,

he may by your mercy enter your everlasting kingdom;

through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 faithful witness

may be 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 for ever. **Amen.**

**D-DAY REMEMBERED**

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A very special event took place in the Church of the Ascension on Thursday 6 June. The 80th Anniversary of D-Day was marked by a Commemoration in Words and Music led by Baillie’s Mills Accordion Band.

The Rector, Canon Robert Howard, conducted the Service and also preached.

The congregational hymns included Onward Christian soldiers! Stand up! Stand up! For Jesus, I vow to thee my country, Lord for the years your love has kept and guided, Lord while for all the world we pray, and O God our help in ages past,

The Band played The Longest Day, A nightingale sang, We’ll meet again, There’ll be blue birds over the white cliffs of Dover, Lili Marlene, In the mood, Wish me luck, It’s a long way to Tipperary, Pack up your troubles, and Keep the home fires burning.

There were Readings from Holy Scripture, Micah 4 v 1-4 God’s promised time of peace, and 2 Corinthians 5 v 16-21 The call to be reconciled’. Other appropriate Readings included D-Day Planning; Fortitude; D-Day Weather; Women’s Role in D – Day.

There followed suitable Prayers of Intercession.

The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem after which light refreshments were served in the Parochial Hall.

 ***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**

**Giving in Grace - a reminder about the October 2023 campaign in Annahilt. **

You may recall that in late October 2023 the Select Vestry launched the “Giving in Grace” challenge to the Parish to increase giving by £500 per week/£26K per year. We were mindful that this would be a very big challenge. However, we have projected that this additional income would be needed to keep the Parish’s general running costs in a solvent position over the next four to five years.

Charity law does not allow the Parish to use money in our other development accounts for general running costs.

To date, 23% of households have sent in a reply. We are fully conscious of the increased cost of living in the last few years and know that not everyone may be in a position to increase their giving. Indications are that the increase in giving (based on 2022 giving figures) will be in the region of £7400 per annum plus any Gift Aid that can be claimed. As you can see this is well short of our target. For the current year of 2024 the projected deficit is £18K.

Through the Giving in Grace campaign, we are all challenged to increase our giving, thereby maintaining the Ministry and Mission of our Spiritual home - Annahilt Parish Church. We strive to be a vibrant Church of Ireland presence for our members and in our community.

**Yours sincerely**

 **J. P. Halliday**

**Patricia Halliday Rev Canon Robert Howard**

**Hon Treasurer Rector**

If you require duplicate literature eg Brochure, Commitment Form or Standing Order please contact Patricia on 07713 257691 or via email treasurer.annahilt@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Completed forms post to 35 Cabra Road, Hillsborough, Co Down, BT26 6NB. Even if you cannot increase your giving we appreciate a form being returned.

**From the Parish Registers**

**Christian Burials**

*‘In Christ shall all be made alive’*

16 May 2024

Robert James (Jim) Macauley, Rocklands, Annahilt

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

Jim was born in Hillsborough, the son of Robert and Mary and one of four siblings and was educated locally. He later qualified as an Electrical Engineer and was employed by NIE, climbing pylons from the age of 21 until he retired.

It was outside the BBC on Ormeau Avenue that he met his future wife May on their first date. They were married in Magheradroll Parish Church on 28 March 1969, initially setting up home in Ballynahinch, then moving to Lisburn and ultimately to Annahilt.

By way of recreation Jim liked to shoot at Lough Neagh especially pigeons and ducks. He loved walking his dog and enjoyed watching some television especially football.

Jim and May enjoyed holidaying each year travelling to the Isle of Man, and various locations in Scotland and the Republic. Driving his car was Jim’s favourite method of transport on holiday.

Other than at holiday times, Jim was characteristically a ‘home bird’, where he was happy to meet and get to know people and establish a close network of friends.

We extend our deepest sympathy to May and the family circle in their bereavement and loss.

12 June 2024

Harold (Harry) Wallace, Lisburn Street, Ballynahinch

*Following Services at home and in Magherahamlet Parish Church, burial took place in adjoining churchyard*.

Harry was born in 1937 at Drumgavlin and educated locally. When he was aged 10, he and his parents and siblings moved to Ballynahinch. The whole of Harry’s working life was spent as a painter and decorator, a trade he began aged 14 and continued to perfect until he retired aged 65. He was highly skilled, decorating and redecorating internally and externally shops, schools, churches, and domestic dwellings including outside this Parish Church.

Although his future wife Edna came from Castlereagh, Belfast she first met Harry at a dance in Ballynahinch. They married at Comber Presbyterian Church on 14 June 1969. They set up home in Ballynahinch and had one daughter, Gillian.

Outside of his working life Harry was passionate about pigeon racing. It really was his ‘life’. He was known to have said ‘I don’t have pigeons; I don’t have anything’ which sometimes left Edna and Gillian somewhat perplexed!

Harry also kept in touch with daily current affairs by extensively reading daily newspapers. He loved football and also followed some rugby. He thoroughly enjoyed spending time outside in the fresh air. He loved his home and garden. The only time he spent away from home was when he was training his pigeons.

Harry was a fit man until illness struck a year ago after which his health continued to decline.

Quite unexpectedly in the end, Harry passed away to the very deep regret of Edna, Gillian & Stephen and the family circle, who are very grateful to all who supported them so fully and extensively through the difficult circumstances of the past year.

We extend to each of them our very deep sympathy in their great loss.

**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 June **Trinity I**

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion Magherahamlet

Sunday 9 June **Saint Columba’s Day**

10.00 Children’s Day Service & Prize Distribution Annahilt *Service Sheets*

12.00 Children’s Day Service & Prize Distribution Magherahamlet *Service Sheets*

Sunday 16 June **Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Rector’s Ordination** *Father’s Day*

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt *Service Sheets*

 Preacher: The Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Kearon

 *Former Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe*

 *followed by Light Refreshments in the Parochial Hall*

12.00 Service of the Word Magherahamlet *Service Sheets*

 Preacher: The Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Kearon

 *Former Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe*

**2.30 SHARP** Annahilt & Magherahamlet Parish Picnic at Larchfield Estate (by kind permission)

Sunday 23 June **Trinity IV**

10.00 Morning Prayer Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer Magherahamlet

 3.30 Evening Prayer Annahilt *Service Sheets*

 *with Legacurry LOL in attendance*

Preacher: The Revd William Murphy

Sunday 30 June **Trinity V**

10.00 Morning Prayer & Litany Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer & Litany Magherahamlet

Sunday 7 July **Trinity VI**

10.00 Parish Communion Annahilt

12.00 Parish Communion Magherahamlet

Sunday 14 July **Trinity VII**

10.00 Morning Prayer Annahilt

12.00 Morning Prayer Magherahamlet

**Fathers’ Day, 16 June**

On 16 June we celebrate fathers on Father’s Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn’t have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity the celebrate God’s fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, as Jesus came out of the water: ‘heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’ (Matthew 3:16,17).

What can we learn about Jesus’ relationship with His Father, the role of fathers and our relationship with God?

***The Father’s presence***

When Jesus was baptized, the Father made His presence real by the Holy Spirit. It’s the Spirit who enables us to call God ‘Daddy’ (Abba, Galatians 4:6). God is with us and knows our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. In this way, Dads can relate to their children.

***The Father’s love***

The Father described His Son as ‘beloved’, who like us, is subject to His unconditional love. Dads should be constant in assuring their children of their love.

***The Father’s pleasure***

The Father tells Jesus that He is ‘well pleased’ with Him. We also need to hear this, if we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. Fathers should use every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.



**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**.

**CHILDREN’S DAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING**

The Church Loyalty and Sunday School prize-giving took place in Annahilt and Magherahamlet on Sunday 9 June. This year the Rector was the preacher. The Rector spoke of the double significance of the day which celebrated the life of Saint Columba and also marked the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in the Second World War.

As well as acknowledging the attendance of our children both in Church and in Sunday School over the past year, it was also an opportunity to thank those who took the Sunday School classes and have worked with dedication and commitment to pass on the Faith to the next generation.

We thank parents, grandparents and other parishioners who came out on Children’s Day in support of our young people and their teachers.

**Flowers for the Churches**

**Annahilt Magherahamlet**

 **June**

 2 Mrs L Crompton

 9 Mr & Mrs R Carlisle

 16 The Rector The Rector

 23

 30

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**Church Cleaning, Annahilt**

**Month**

**June**

 1 Mrs L McCambley Mrs E Harrison

7-8 Mrs J Bolas Mr A Bolas

14-15 Mrs H Hill Mr T Hill

21-22 Mrs J Guiney Mrs H Cardosi

28-29 Mrs A Maxwell Mr R Maxwell

**July**

 5-6 Mrs L McCambley Mrs E Harrison

12-13 Mrs E Crawford

19-20 Mrs S Chapman Mr S Chapman

26-27 Mrs J Bolas Mr A Bolas



Dear Members

We extend our deep sympathy to May Macauley on the very unexpected death of her dear husband Jim and also to Anne Hall on the passing of her dear sister. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both and their respective family circles.

Yours sincerely

Beth, Esme, Elaine Avril, Frances, Virginia

**‘Get well’ wishes to Lord Eames**

We are sorry to report that Lord Eames has been indisposed following a recent fall. However, it is very good to note that following a period of hospitalisation he is now home again and is continuing to improve.

Lord Eames is grateful to for the thoughts expressed and prayers made by all associated with this Group of Parishes. We continue to wish him well for a speedy recovery to full health and strength.

**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.**

**Wave of Prayer: June 2024**

**1-3 June: Johannesburg** in South Africa; **Kumi** in Uganda; **Nsukka & Idoani** in Nigeria; **Derby** in England and **Madhya Kerala** in India

**4-6 June: Ibba** in South Sudan**; Maseno** North in Kenya; **Isiala-Ngwa & Ondo** in Nigeria; **Fredericton** in Canada and **Amritsar** in India

**7 June:** MU locally / branch leaders

**8-10 June: Yambio** in South Sudan; **Garissa** in Kenya; **Mbamili** in Nigeria; **Hereford** in England; **Willochra** in Australia and **Thailand**

**11-13 June: Mahajanga** in Madagascar; **Mara** in Tanzania; **West Buganda** in Uganda; **Kwoi** in Nigeria; **Newcastle** in Australia and **East Kerala** in India

**14 June:** MU nationally / Mary Sumner House staff

**15-17 June: Bukavu** in DR Congo; **Nyahururu** in Kenya; **Gboko** in Nigeria; **Portsmouth** in England and **New Guinea Islands in Papua New Guinea**

**18-20 June: Rejaf** in South Sudan; **Military Episcopate** in Kenya; **Doko & Owo** in Nigeria; **Chelmsford** in England and **Jamaica & Cayman Islands**

**21 June:** MU worldwide / WW President and CEO

**22-24 June: Rumonge** in Burundi; **Tabora** in Tanzania; **Kabba & Bukuru** in Nigeria; **St Albans** in England and **Nagpur** in India

**25-27 June: Table Bay** in South Africa; **Rift Valley** in Tanzania; **Evo & Ijebu** in Nigeria; **Adelaide** in Australia and **Taejon** in South Korea

**28 June:** MU in the Diocese / Diocesan trustees

**29-30 June: Eastern Zambia** in Zambia; **Mombasa** in Kenya; **Gwagwalada & Ekiti-West** in Nigeria; **Leicester** in England and **Temotu** in Solomon Islands

**Prayer of the month**

God of unchanging power, your Holy Spirit enables us to proclaim your love in challenging times and places.

Give to all members of Mothers’ Union steadfastness, fresh understanding and a clear vision that, together, we may continue the mission to which we are called.

**Midday Prayer: June 2024**

**Prayer Diary Theme:**

**Mission and Vision**

***Monday: Footsteps in Faith***

*‘In him we live and move and have our being’*

*(Acts 17.28)*

Mothers’ Union is all about Footsteps in Faith.

We make them.

We look ahead to judge the terrain.

We look back to see where we’ve come from.

We journey together, though sometimes we feel alone. Sometimes our path is well lit, sometimes we stumble in the darkness; but always, like the saints of old, we mark the landscape with our footsteps in faith.

*(MU Chaplain, Newcastle Diocese)*

**Heavenly Father**, give us the faith to look to Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. Faith to see the invisible, and do the impossible; faith invincible in the face of evil and death. Faith to pass the good news of Jesus to the next generation; faith to live in sustainable ways to bless the earth you created. Faith to take up our cross and follow Jeus all our day until we come to our eternal home.

In Jesus name, Amen

*(Margaret Vivian (Sheffield Diocese)*

***Tuesday: Community transformation***

*‘You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.’*

*(Matthew 5:14,16)*

Pray for the work of Mothers Union bringing hope and help for a new start to those in prison, a voice for the unjustly convicted, and practical compassion for victims of circumstance.

**God our Saviour,** we come to you with broken hearts. We see the world in pain and hunger, not only for food but also for justice. Our minds are full of questions, though the innermost of our hearts could feel your love and compassion. Your grace shines on humanity whether righteous or wrong. Let us be your helping hands for the bereaved and the persecuted. God of hope, please hear our prayer, in Jesus’ name. Amen

*(Annabel Khinn sett Lin, Myanmar)*

***Wednesday: Worldwide fellowship***

*‘You are members of God’s family. You are being built together into a house where God lives through his Spirit.’*

*(Eph 2.19,22)*

**Ever loving God,** thank you for the gift of family. In the family the binding love of God finds expression and is where dreams, hopes and aspirations are nurtured. Bless and strengthen every family. In your loving mercy give us the resilience to trust in you in the midst of hard times. Help us to (be faithful members of your worldwide family) that we may find our joy in you. Amen

*Dorothy Siep, Papua New Guinea*

***Thursday: Peace and safety***

*‘Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.’ (Hebrew 12:14)*

We pray for nations torn apart by war, for communities disrupted by anger, for individuals tormented by guilt.

**May I know peace**

Peace in this world

Peace in this country and this city

Peace for my neighbours and my community*...* Peace for my friends and my family

May I know peace in myself,

And may I be a giver of peace…

As a peacemaker to my friends and family

As a peacemaker to my neighbours and my community*...*

As a peacemaker for this city and this country and a peacemaker for this world.

*A Hope for Peace (Newcastle Chain of Peace)*

***Friday: Nurturing family faith***

*‘We will not hide these things from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious dees of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.’*

*(Psalm 78:4)*

Nurturing children is a both a joy and challenging task; testing the limits of our patience and stretching the boundaries of our faith. We pray for God’s help us to reflect his love in our families and to our children.

**Thank you** for my family and the important part I play in mine. You are the perfect father: always loving, kind, encouraging, forgiving, patient and faithful; always available to hear my prayers, requests, complaints and fears; always ready to lead, guide, help, strengthen, encourage and support. Help me to learn from your example, trust you in my weakness, believe you when I doubt and quickly turn to you for help. Show me that today’s opportunities are not limited by yesterday’s shortcomings. Amen.

*(Author Unknown)*

***Saturday: Vision for the environment***

*‘God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the earth and over all the wild animals of the earth.” (Gen 1.26)*

Dominion, God-style, is not domination, but wise stewardship, mindful of balance and interdependence, of responsibility & thankfulness.

**God of life,** we praise you for the beauty of creation, its richness and variety; yet, through greed and ignorance, we scar your world with plastic waste and throw so much away. Make us more like Jesus, treading gently on our common home, and breathe your Spirit on us, that we may care more deeply for your Earth.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Rt Revd Graham Usher. Bishop of Norwich and Lead Bishop on the Environment*

**Bible Week 2024**

We hope you’ll join us at the end of the summer for this year’s Bible Week with the Rt Revd Stuart Bell. Stuart is an Assistant Bishop in the Anglican Convocation in Europe with primary responsibility for Wales.

Bishop Stuart Bell

An Englishman by birth, Bishop Bell was formerly a Canon of the Church in Wales and a former rector of St Michael’s Church, Aberystwyth, the largest Anglican congregation in Wales.

As well as inspiring teaching, our annual 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 venue this year is St Saviour’s Dollingstown and the dates are** **Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 August. Don’t miss it!**

Top of Form

Top of Form

**Annahilt Parish Bowling Club**

Recently the Bowling Club held its end of season dinner and prize giving in The Mulberry Tree Restaurant, Seaforde.

Twenty five members and friends gathered for a lovely meal and an evening's craic. Prior to the meal, members held a minute's silence as a mark of respect following the very recent sudden death of one of their members, Wilson Hunter.

**Spring Wellness events**

Two events took place in April and May in the Parish Hall where members of the Parish and Community came together for an enjoyable afternoon aimed at decreasing social isolation and promoting physical and mental health. We are grateful to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council for funding to run these events.

A total of almost ninety people attended including folks from the Parish, the WI, the Bowling Club and the Community.

The April event was such a success that the organising committee persuaded the members of Baillies Mills Band to return for the May event. Programme on both days was led by Patricia Halliday on behalf of the organising committee and John Erwin from the band. Light lunch and dessert were supplied and served by The Mulberry Tree staff.

The programme included chair exercise, music quiz, slideshow of band activities, introduction of band members, recruitment for the band and some dancing. It is not believed that the band had success in recruiting any new members!
The feedback from attendees of both days was very positive and indications from those attending were that they would like something similar in the future.

The organising committee in response to the very positive feedback have decided to plan a very informal **"Coffee and Craic"** for members of the Parish and Community to be held on **Wednesday 18th September 2024 from 11am - 12.30pm approx**. Light refreshments will be served at 11am and we will take it from there.

**Lunch Club**

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

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

26 July

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 028 9263 8952) for further information.

**THE REVD CANON ROBERT HOWARD**

**40**

**YEARS OF MINISTRY**

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of the Rector, the Revd Canon Robert Howard, the Churchwardens and Select Vestries of Annahilt and Magherahamlet invite you to join one or both of the

**RUBY JUBILEE SERVICES**

**on Sunday 16 June 2024**

**Church of the Ascension, Annahilt**

10.00am Parish Communion

*Light refreshments in the Parochial Hall*

**Magherahamlet Parish Church**

12.00 noon Service of the Word

Preacher at both Services:

The Right Revd Dr Kenneth Kearon

*Former Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe*

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**Afterwards, you are welcome to continue the celebrations and bring a picnic to enjoy together at Larchfield Estate at 2.30pm SHARP**

**Financial matters**

**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

**LISBURN FOODBANK**

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

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

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

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

* small packs of toilet roll
* nappies
* baby wipes
* shower gel
* soaps
* washing powder

**YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**.

**Parish Website:  AnnahiltAndMagherahamlet.org**

Parishioners are reminded that the website [annahiltandmagherahamlet.org](http://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.

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[www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org](http://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 30 June 2024.

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