

## News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



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November 2020

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

My dear parishioners

Many of us associate the month of November with remembrance. On All Saints' Day, 1 November at both morning services we traditionally remember those who have died in the past year who were connected with the parish. We remember on the second Sunday in November, 8 November, those who made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts. I believe we all realise that such ceremonies will have to be observed in different ways this year.

If possible, I want to encourage parishioners this year to think of November, not just as a month of remembering, but also as a month in which we don't forget. I know so many of our parishioners have been supporting one another since the original lockdown by phoning each other regularly. Many have commented on how helpful and encouraging they have found such contact. Please don't forget those people you were phoning as the winter months progress.

Last month the Executive imposed new and more severe restrictions to curb the spread of coronavirus. It has affected schools and in particular the hospitality industry as we are reminded of what we need to do to stay safe.

At present, church buildings are permitted to remain open for worship and we are very grateful to our Churchwardens, cleaning teams and technology teams for doing everything possible to enable us to worship in a controlled and safe environment. Please don't forget, however, that some of our parishioners are still shielding or self-isolating and that is why your contact with others is so important. Phone calls and cards can make such a difference when people don't have their usual social outlets. We are aware that many are keenly feeling the loss of a loved one. Others have loved ones in nursing homes or sheltered accommodation or in hospital and the visiting restrictions leave patients and families feeling very vulnerable and isolated while staff are doing their very best to offer the best care they can in a very difficult situation.

Now that the Harvest Festivals in both Churches are over, we are planning our Advent and Christmas programme. We realise that we cannot facilitate all of what we would normally do at this season. Nevertheless, we hope that, if people cannot come in person to events that do take place, they will be able to connect in via the online or CD recordings. Certain services in the Christmas season may need to be pre-recorded to facilitate the cleaning required between services and to observe the current regulations we must follow.

The Bishop, The Rt Revd David McClay has asked all parishes in the Diocese to have a Gift Day on Advent Sunday 29th November. The suggestion, as I understand it, is that parishes give 80% of the collection on that day to a local project. 10% of the total will go to our link Diocese of Maridi in South Sudan where the COVID-19 situation has placed a huge strain on people and churches who live in acute poverty. The remaining 10% will go to our diocesan Church Planting Fund where the Diocese is trying to plant new churches in areas where there isn't a strong church presence and reach communities who have no church connection.

As I write this letter, I am conscious of those who have lost employment or who have had their hours greatly reduced as the furlough scheme draws to a close. Remembering through financial gifts is one way of helping, but there are other ways too. I am always struck by how generous our parishioners are in terms of their time and offering their talents. Whether that is something like phoning those who are currently vulnerable or shielding or praying intentionally for others and for the church, these are vitally important things to do.

The other thing I need to say is that, despite the best laid plans, we are currently in a very uncertain and fluid situation and we may find we have to cancel services or events at very short notice. We will do our very best to keep people informed so, please, keep an eye on the parish website for the latest information and share it with other parishioners who may not have internet access.

While we are encouraged to remember this month, let's not forget those we need to stay in touch with. Also, let's not forget those in other difficult situations and include them in our prayers. Let's pray for our Government, for scientific advisors and for those on the frontline in the Health Service, in retail and delivery and all those we know who are facing challenging times.

Do stay safe and, in the midst of all these challenges, let us remember God's promise never to leave us or forsake us and that He will be with us even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28 verse 20)

With very best wishes to everyone

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

## Reflections on Harvest Time in Magherahamlet

This year's Harvest Festival in Magherahamlet (25 October) took place in unusual circumstances. Nonetheless there was a genuine atmosphere of praise and thanksgiving throughout. As always, the Church was beautifully decorated with suitably imaginative and appropriate floral arrangements and other decorations.



On Sunday morning there was a celebration of Holy Communion with the Rector presiding. The visiting preacher was the Revd Canon Stephen Fielding, Rector of Malone, Belfast. The special music included the anthem 'King of the universe, Lord of the ages' sung as a solo by Mrs Lynn Jennings.



Sunday evening's Service of the Word was also conducted by the Rector. The visiting preacher on this occasion was the Very Revd John Dinnen, former Dean of Down. The special music included the anthems 'Fairest Lord Jesus' and 'Think of a world without any flowers' and the Vesper 'Light of the world, in grace and beauty' which were again sung as solos by Lynn.

At the conclusion of the services, the Rector thanked all who had decorated the Church so splendidly and those who had very generously contributed various gifts for the decoration including the non perishable items for the Foodbank. He also expressed appreciation to the Organist Mrs Frances Magorrian, the soloist Mrs Lynn Jennings, the various readers and our visiting preachers, Canon Stephen Fielding and Dean John Dinnen.

## Remembering the Fallen

The **Cenotaph** positioned on Whitehall in London has become the central focus for the remembrance and commemoration events in Britain since the First World War – however it was never intended to be permanent.



Cenotaph means 'empty tomb'. It symbolises the unprecedented losses suffered during the First World War and is dedicated to 'The Glorious Dead'. There are no names inscribed on the Cenotaph, which allowed individuals to assign their own meaning to the memorial. It also provided a tangible place of mourning for those whose husbands, sons, brothers, friends and relations died during the war without a known grave. This symbolism also resonates through the introduction of the two minutes silence on Armistice Day and the interment of the Unknown Warrior.

In 1919, British architect Edwin Landseer Lutyens (1898-1944) was approached by Sir Alfred Mons, First Commissioner of Works, to design a catafalque – a raised platform to hold a casket or tomb – to stand on Whitehall. After an official approach by Prime Minister David Lloyd George, Lutyens produced the design for a cenotaph that would be erected to coincide with the Peace Day celebrations in July 1919.

The original wood and plaster structure was only intended to stand for one week, but it proved so popular that a permanent replacement was commissioned. After the original was removed in January 1920, the new Portland stone memorial was completed and installed, ready to be unveiled by King George V on Armistice Day – 11 November 1920, exactly 100 years ago.

After the original Cenotaph was removed, the wooden top was displayed by the Imperial War Museum, then located at Crystal Palace. It became a focus for remembrance activities at the museum during the 1920s.

### **A Prayer to be said by families visiting a war grave or memorial:**

Lord Jesus, we believe that you stood beside *N and his fellow-soldiers* as they fought to bring peace to your world.

We believe that you have stood among us as we have tried to imagine the fear and pain and loneliness of the wounded and the dying on the battlefield.

We believe that you stand beside us now, as we remember and honour *N*.

In your great mercy, bless our good memories, comfort us when we grieve for the life

that might have been, and strengthen us in all we do to seek the peace and freedom which are your desire for the world. **Amen.**

### **In-Church Worship in Church of the Ascension, Annahilt and Magherahamlet Parish Church**

In-Church Services have resumed in both Churches. Numbers are reduced considerably because of the legal requirement to facilitate safe distancing. Because of this, it would be very helpful if those intending to come to church would give notice of their intentions.

This can be done via email up to the **Friday** before.

#### *Annahilt*

Trevor Hill [trevorhill111@btinternet.com](mailto:trevorhill111@btinternet.com)

Graham Galbraith [grahamgalbraith1154@gmail.com](mailto:grahamgalbraith1154@gmail.com)

#### *Magherahamlet*

Hillary Edgar [hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com](mailto:hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com)

Alternatively, you can make contact by telephone:

#### *Annahilt*

Trevor Hill                      07890552930 on Friday              7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Graham Galbraith              07909 998648 on Thursday      7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

#### *Magherahamlet*

George McCurry              028 9756 3955                      up to the Friday before

Hillary Edgar                      028 4481 1361                      up to the Friday before

For Annahilt, notification of attendance can also be given via the Parish website up to the **Friday** before.

## **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 1 November                      All Saints' Day**

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer	Magherahamlet

### **Sunday 8 November                      Remembrance Sunday**

10.00	Morning Prayer & Act of Remembrance	Annahilt
	Preacher: The Bishop, the Rt Revd David McClay	

12.00	Morning Prayer & Act of Remembrance	Magherahamlet
	Preacher: The Bishop, the Rt Revd David McClay	

### **Sunday 15 November                      II Sunday before Advent**

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Parish Communion	Magherahamlet

### **Sunday 22 November                      Christ the King**

10.00	Morning Prayer & Litany	Annahilt
12.00	Morning Prayer & Litany	Magherahamlet

Sunday 29 November

**Advent I**

*Gift Day*

10.00	Hymns & Readings for Advent	Annahilt
12.00	Hymns & Readings for Advent	Magherahamlet

Sunday 6 December

**Advent II**

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt
12.00	Parish Communion	Magherahamlet

**In Memoriam**

On All Saints' Day (1 November) at the 10.00 am and 12 noon services in Annahilt and Magherahamlet respectively, we will remember by name those from each parish who have died during the past year.

**Bishop's visit**

On account of unforeseen circumstances the Bishop, the Rt Revd David McClay was unable to preach at the evening Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

We are delighted that the Bishop has been able to reschedule his visit. He will now preach in both Annahilt and Magherahamlet on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November.





The Bishop, the Rt Revd Bishop David has invited us to set aside Advent Sunday, 29 November, as a Gift Day throughout the diocese:

Dear Friends

I have invited every parish in the diocese to make this Advent Sunday a special Gift Day. God has been merciful towards us in this challenging year and this is an opportunity for us to thank him by blessing others through our generous giving.

I am asking each parish to set aside 80% of what is given on that Sunday for a local project in the parish, to give 10% of what is raised to our link Diocese of Maridi's COVID-19 relief and recovery fund and 10% towards our own Diocesan Church Planting Fund.

Parishes will know best the needs within their own context and I am looking forward to hearing about the different projects that our churches will choose to invest in.

Please begin to think and pray about what you could give on Sunday 29 November. It would be such an encouragement if, together, we could begin this Advent season of hope with a generous offering that brings hope to others.

In Christ  
**+David**  
**Down & Dromore**

*Further information will be given in due course about this initiative in Annahilt & Magherahamlet*

**Flowers for the Churches**

**Annahilt**



**Magherahamlet**

**November**

1  
8 Remembrance Sunday  
15 Mrs M McCauley  
22  
29

Remembrance Sunday

**Church Cleaning, Annahilt**

**November**

6-7 Mrs E Crawford  
13-14 Mrs L McCambley  
20-21 Mrs E Ogle  
27-28 Mrs J Guiney



Mrs M Finlay  
Mrs E Harrison  
Mrs H Cardosi

**December**

4-5 Mrs A Maxwell  
11-12 Mrs A Patterson  
18-19 Mrs J Bolas

Mr R Maxwell  
Mr A Bolas

## **Parish of Annahilt, Annual General Vestry Report, Monday 12 October 2020**

In his report the Rector referred to the unprecedented delay in holding the Annual General Vestry meeting and that much of the information might seem very dated.

In 2019 the Parish's official membership (those households who are subscribers) stood at 134 family units. There were 2 baptisms and 6 funerals.

The Rector referred to the death of Mrs Edith Codd, our most senior parishioner at the time of her passing and a devoted servant of Christ who was a weekly attendee at worship until her health declined. He also referred to the loss of another lovely Christian lady in the person of Mrs Esther Ferguson, wife of our late Rector, the Revd Jack Ferguson. As well as being enormously supportive of her husband in his ministry Mrs Ferguson played a huge role in her own right in the life of this and other parishes where he served as well as in the wider diocese, especially in the Mothers' Union. He expressed sympathy to all who had been bereaved during the past year.

Worship and prayer were paramount during 2019 which contributed to the spiritual well-being of participants and the reinforcement of Christian values. There was a Service on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent. Holy Week (the week before Easter) was observed with mid-week Services held on alternate nights with our sister Parish of Magherahamlet. The annual Christmas Carol Service with participation by the Choir of Anahilt Primary School took place in December with the Deputy Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council as Guest of Honour. A long-standing reciprocal arrangement was continued whereby the Minister and Congregation of Legacurry Presbyterian Church attended the First Communion of Christmas in the Parish Church on Christmas Eve, and the Rector and Parishioners of Annahilt Church of Ireland attended the Watchnight Service in Legacurry on New Year's Eve. Both events were well supported and proportionately attended by members of both the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Church as well as other visitors.

The Parochial Hall is a very useful facility which again more than proved its worth in advancing Christian activity in our parish. Its use will no doubt continue to develop when normal parochial activity is restored. In 2019 the Parish Sunday School usually met on a weekly basis during the main morning service. Usually following the All Age / Family Service light refreshments were provided by teenagers in the Parish to raise funds for Christian Aid. A similar annual event was hosted by the Sunday School to raise funds for the Church Missionary Society. All were both financial and social successes. Other occasions when refreshments were served following Church Services included Holy Week, Harvest Thanksgiving and following the Christmas Carol Service. On such occasions, the presence of worshippers from neighbouring churches as well as people from the school and local community enjoying an extended period of

fellowship is always valued.

The Mothers' Union continued to meet on a monthly basis with routine members' nights. There was also a 'Visitors Night' to which guests from Ladies' groups in neighbouring Churches were invited.

The Indoor Bowling Club met twice weekly throughout the season attracting the regular participation of members from all ages in the parish and community and once again hosted a Bowling Tournament.

A splendid dinner to celebrate Burns' Night took place in January in the nearby Larchfield Estate and Grounds. Other well attended fundraising events including a Parish Quiz, Golfing outing and Christmas Fair also included opportunities of socialising. The monthly collection of items for the local food-bank continued and proved to be of immense benefit for those in our community who are less fortunate than others.

The Rector said that nobody could have possibly foreseen the unprecedented circumstances which would unfold in 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic and result in the postponement of the General Vestry meeting.

Lockdown began back on Thursday 19 March dramatically with the immediate suspension of Church Services and all other parochial activity. Fortunately thanks to the expertise and very generous time commitment of Colin Robinette and William Mathers we were able almost immediately to relay Services on line.

The Rector said that a sad blow for him in the midst of the restrictions occurred with the death of his dear mother on Pentecost Sunday. He acknowledged that there were others who lost loved ones in this period whose funerals were very simple, even sparse usually taking place at the graveside or crematorium, whereas in other circumstances, bereaved families would have been surrounded in church filled with supporting relatives and friends.

And yet, despite the desolation and loss of the present situation, we found ourselves really quite active but quieter; busy and creative in new and unexpected ways. One of the first things many individuals dealt with was addressing the long 'put off' clear outs of their roof spaces, garages or workshops. These were useful positive things to do but what about the community life of the parish? How could we stay together if we couldn't be together? It didn't take long for us to find new ways of doing old things. The age of Zoom has arrived which has enabled our Sunday School to meet. Placing recordings of services on our parish website helped connect not just with our regular congregation but we soon discovered an online gathering many times larger than our usual physical ones.

Coming out of lockdown was equally memorable (especially when the hairdressers re-opened!), but just as uncertain as when we went in. We were making small steps and now our Churches have re-opened for public worship. To say the least the present situation is far from satisfactory and remains deeply troubling. We hope and pray we won't stumble and that we do get closer to the freedom we previously had.

Drawing his remarks to a close, The Rector thanked all who had contributed to parish life throughout the year.

During the meeting the Trustees Report was presented by the Honorary Treasurer, Miss JP Halliday. The annual and triennial elections were also held.

## **Parish of Annahilt**

### Annual General Vestry Elections 2020

Rector's Churchwarden  
People's Churchwarden  
Rector's Glebewarden  
People's Glebewarden

Trevor Hill  
Graham Galbraith (until 8.11.20)  
William Mathers  
David Guiney

In addition to the above Officers, the following were elected to the Select Vestry:

RT Carlisle  
S Chapman  
L Clarke  
Mrs E Crawford  
I Dunn  
J Erwin

Miss J P Halliday  
W Harrison  
C Hassard  
Mrs A McKeown  
C Robinette  
Mrs S Wilson

### **Parochial Nominators**

Mrs Edwina Crawford  
Graham Galbraith  
Colin Robinette

**Supplemental Parochial Nominators**

1. Mrs Aileen Maxwell
2. Ian Dunn
3. John Erwin

**Diocesan Synod Representative**

Miss Patricia Halliday

**Supplemental Diocesan Synod Representative**

Mrs Edwina Crawford

**Additional Diocesan Synod Representative (age 18-30)**

Nicholas Robinette

**Independent Examiner**

Kenneth Watterson

## **Parish of Magherahamlet, Easter General Vestry Report, Wednesday 14 October 2020**

The Rector began by explaining how his report was initially prepared for delivery at the originally scheduled General Vestry meeting almost 7 months ago, therefore much of the information would sound very dated indeed.

In 2019 the Parish's official membership (those households who are subscribers) stood at 63 family units. There was one marriage and one funeral.

Worship and prayer were paramount during 2019. At the principal Sunday service the sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated monthly, an All Age / Family Service was also usually held monthly while the Office of Morning Prayer was normally conducted on other remaining Sundays. Holy Week (the week before Easter) was observed with mid-week Services held on alternate nights with our sister Parish of Annahilt. The Devotions were led each evening by the Revd Canon Trevor Lester, former Rector of Kilmoe Union of Parishes.

In 2019 it was turn of Magherahamlet Parish Church to host the annual Christmas Carol Service which alternates each year with our parish and the two local Presbyterian Churches. The event was well supported and proportionally attended by members of the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Churches as well as other visitors. A Lunch to raise funds for the Church Missionary Society of Ireland (CMSI) was held following the Family Service in February. For the first time a Stew Lunch was served In the Parochial Hall following the Service on the Sunday nearest Saint Patrick's Day which was well supported. Light refreshments followed the Sunday evening Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

The routine maintenance of our parochial buildings continued throughout the year.

The new Parochial Hall is a splendid facility which in the seven years since its official opening has more than proved its worth in advancing Christian activity in our parish. Now that the Select Vestry has been granted an entertainments licence for the Hall its use will no doubt continue to develop. In 2019 the Mothers' Union continued to meet on a monthly basis with routine members' nights. There was also a 'Visitors Night' to which guests from Ladies' groups in neighbouring Churches were invited. The Badminton Club met weekly throughout the year attracting the regular participation of members from all ages in the parish and community. The Select Vestry hosted a Summer Sale which very well supported by parishioners and others in the community.

The Report following the 2019 Quinquennial Inspection of the Church and Rectory was on the agenda of the outgoing Select Vestry. Attention to those items identified as urgent were given priority.

Nobody could possibly have foreseen the unprecedented circumstances which would unfold in 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic.

Lockdown began back on Thursday 19 March with the immediate suspension of Church Services and all other parochial activity. There was no time to arrange any alternative celebration of Mothering Sunday. The undiluted message at that time was 'Stay at home'. That is where most mothers most likely were as the opportunity of lunching at hotels or restaurants was not an option either with the closure of the hospitality industry. Fortunately thanks to the expertise and very generous time commitment of Colin Robinette and William Mathers (both parishioners from Annahilt) we were able to broadcast Services online. It was wonderful that on Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, each night of Holy Week and on Easter Day we were able to participate in worship albeit while living in isolation.

As time went on, we wondered when we would be able to gather in the crowded joyful way we're used to. Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday; all great festivals but this year without festivity.

The Rector referred to the death of his dear mother on Pentecost Sunday. He expressed renewed thanks on behalf of himself and his family for the deep sympathy and great support they had received from both parishes at a very difficult time.

The Rector said we were making small steps now that our Churches have re-opened for public worship. To say the least the present situation is far from satisfactory and remains deeply troubling. We hope and pray we won't stumble and that we do get closer to the freedom we previously had. He said 'had' rather than 'enjoyed' as a reminder that the speed at which we lived, for many, was a freedom that came with a cost. Perhaps an enforced slow down, a time when we have not felt or been in control, perhaps this will engender in us a deeper sense of appreciation and sensitivity.

It was noted on the day of meeting that many of the previous restrictions that had since been lifted are being reimposed. However, it was a relief to know that now we have begun to have services in church again that in-church worship can continue notwithstanding the latest protocols. Also, we know the need to continue on-line for those who cannot come to church yet. We miss them deeply and look forward to a time when we can truly worship without fear, laugh, sing, shake hands and hug and **really** celebrate!

Drawing his remarks to a close, the Rector thanked everyone who had contributed to Parish life during the year. During the Meeting, the Trustees Report was presented by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Hillary Edgar. The annual and triennial elections were also held.



**Parish of Magherahamlet**

Annual General Vestry Elections  
2020

Rector's Churchwarden  
People's Churchwarden  
Rector's Glebewarden  
People's Glebewarden

George McCurry  
Larry Fryers  
George McCurry  
Norman Hughes

In addition to the above Officers the following were elected to the Select Vestry:

Miss V Begley  
W Chambre  
H Edgar  
C Hall  
W Kelly

Mrs F Magorrian  
Mrs S McCurry  
Mrs A Stanford  
Mrs L Vladeanu

**Parochial Nominator**

Hillary Edgar

**Supplemental Parochial Nominator**

Mrs Sally McCurry

**Diocesan Synod Representative**

Mrs Abbie Stanford

**Supplemental Diocesan Synod Representative**

Miss Virginia Begley

**Additional Supplemental Diocesan Synod Representative (Age 18-30)**

Charles Millsopp

**Independent Examiner**

Mrs Carol Shields ACA

## 20 Prayers to pray during the Coronavirus Pandemic



1. For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.
2. For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease.
3. For the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.
4. For our Governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.
5. For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.
6. For the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.
7. For consumers of media, looking to be well-informed: God, help us find the most helpful local information to equip us to be good neighbours. Keep us from anxiety and panic and enable us to implement the recommended strategies, even at a cost to ourselves.
8. For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support.
9. For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from disease, and provide isolation shelters in every city.
10. For international travellers stuck in foreign countries: God, help them return home safely and quickly.
11. For Christian missionaries throughout the world, especially in areas with high rates of infection: God, provide them with words of hope and equip them to love and serve those around them.

- 12.** For workers in a variety of industries facing redundancy and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic and inspire your church to generously support them.
- 13.** For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.
- 14.** For parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions.
- 15.** For those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must now be postponed: God, help them to stay patient and positive.
- 16.** For business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: God, give these women and men wisdom and help them to lead self-sacrificially.
- 17.** For clergy and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God, help them to creatively imagine how to lead their congregations and love their communities well.
- 18.** For college and university students, whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are cancelled, whose graduation is uncertain: God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you.
- 19.** For Christians in every neighbourhood, community, and city: May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.
- 20.** For frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. We also pray:

God, keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.

God, help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols.

God, help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic.

God, deliver them from anxiety for their own loved ones (ageing parents, children, spouses, roommates).

God, give them compassion for every patient in their care.

God, provide for them financially, especially if they fall ill and are unable to work.

God, help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that many would ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will.

**Amen.**

### **Prayers for the current situation**

Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness,

Be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion,

Be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar, that when the doors reopen we may with the zeal of Pentecost inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness to an emerging world.

For Jesus' sake.

**Amen.**



Father please hear us when we tell You of our concerns of sending our children and educators back to school.

Know that we are striving to make all of the right decisions and need Your love and power to help us overcome any difficulties.

Please watch over everyone as times and routines are about to change once again.

We know that we can do anything through You, so please help us ensure health and semi-normalcy in the coming months.

We give our hearts to You, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

## **Hello everyone**

We sincerely hope that you are all keeping safe and comfortable by the fireside on these dark and chilly evenings. Just the ideal opportunity to indulge in a little bit of creative crafting and guess what, we have received an invitation from All-Ireland Mothers' Union to take part in a new "Design a Christmas Card competition." There are three categories and the best two cards in each category from each Diocese will be forwarded for judging at All-Ireland level. Esme will forward more details of this competition to members either on-line or by post.

On the other hand, if you wish to support Mothers' Union by purchasing your Christmas cards this year you can do so on-line by visiting [www. mueshop.org](http://www.mueshop.org) or alternatively Esme has a small range of Mothers' Union Christmas card designs available and will be happy to help. Mob: 07748736622.

We have also received details about the fact that the two Mothers' Union publications, Families First and Families Worldwide are to be combined into a new style magazine and because of the current COVID-19 restrictions these magazines are to be posted directly from Mary Sumner House to each Mothers' Union member. We hope that you all have an enjoyable time with your reading and crafting.

Kind regards

Beth  
Esme

Avril  
Ann

*The Mothers' Union Midday Prayers for November are detailed once again for your use:*

**Monday: Equal before God**

God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

*Genesis 1:27, 31*

**Creator God, thank you that we are all made in your image and equally loved by you. Open our eyes to behold your face in those of our sisters and brothers. As we draw near to Christ in whom we are united through faith, let us be ready to value each other as beloved children of God.**

**We pray for all to follow Christ's example of treating women with equality and respect. We pray for the dawn of a better world where justice and peace may flourish.**

**Amen.**

**Tuesday: Hope for change**

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.

*Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)*

**God our Creator, we thank you for our shared calling as your children, male and female together, to care for all of creation. Forgive us when we fail to notice or to question that which is less than good: when we condone or perpetuate violence of any kind. Fill us with your Spirit of wisdom and help us to see the world through your eyes of compassion and justice.**

**Give us courage to challenge and to change, in the name of Jesus Christ our Liberator.**

**Amen.**

### **Wednesday: Hope of transformation**

God created both male and female and blessed them, the whole human race.

*Genesis 5:2 (The Message)*

**Lord, we pray for transformation of our societies which often find it easier to judge the victims of violence than to solve the problems of injustice.**

We pray for a transformation in the violent way many men act towards and think about women.

We pray for right and just relations between women and men that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms and learn to celebrate our diversity and interdependence.

**We look forward to the age of peace, when violence is banished, both women and men are able to love and to be loved, and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.**

**Amen.**

### **Thursday: Actions of hope**

He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

*Micah 6:8*

**Lord of justice and mercy, draw us close to those who hurt. Let us reach out our hands in your name to share the sorrow and lessen the pain.** Lengthen our strides to march for good. Clothe our feet with your living Word to trample the works of injustice. Knit us together as the body of Christ that we may act with one accord for the kingdom of God to prevail.

**Lord of justice and mercy fill us with new resolve to pursue actions of hope in the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**



### **Friday: United in hope**

Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

*Luke 18:7-8*

**Loving Lord, we draw near in faith; united in hope and purpose.**

We pray for the work of our members worldwide to combat gender injustice; for their highlighting of the issue, their petitioning of governments and their work with victims and survivors. As a global family we embrace our mission to speak out for the vulnerable and voiceless. Help us play our part in creating a just and equal society.

**Loving Lord, in hope and unity we offer up these prayers, as we campaign for gender justice across the world.**

**Amen.**

### **Saturday: Hope for the future**

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness.

*John 10:10*

**Lord of life, thank you that many women and girls are free from injustice and violence. Thank you for your healing power which brings hope for the future.**

Heavenly Father, continue to move amongst the earth to change attitudes that promote, accept and perpetuate all forms of gender injustice. May fear be vanquished and freedom reign, that all may lead positive lives in safety and peace.

**We pray for all to follow your example of treating women with equality and respect. We pray for the dawn of a better world where justice and peace may flourish.**

**Amen.**

## **WEEKLY GIVING – ANNAHILT & MAGHERAHAMLET**

The 2021 FWO envelopes will be prepared towards the end of November and if anyone wishes to have envelopes or wishes to amend their requirements, would they please contact the Hon Treasurers.

*Annahilt* Miss Patricia Halliday 028 9266 5310/ 07713 257691  
[patriciaapc@btinternet.com](mailto:patriciaapc@btinternet.com)

*Magherahamlet* Hillary Edgar 02844811361  
[hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com](mailto:hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com)

We would also encourage parishioners to pay some of their giving by Bankers Standing Order and anyone who would be interested in discussing this should also contact Patricia or Hillary.

## **LISBURN FOODBANK**

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

During the present government ordered restrictions it is not possible to leave items for the Foodbank at Church. However, if parishioners would like to continue to donate at this time, and it is hoped that many will, they may wish to know that the collection points at the two supermarkets, Tesco and Sainsbury's, are permanent points and will allow people to continue to remember those who rely on the Foodbank in a very practical way.

A particular request from the Foodbank is for items listed below:

Toiletries  
Small boxes of washing powder  
Cleaning Supplies  
Toilet Rolls (2 or 4)  
Baby wipes  
Nappies

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

## **YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

Foodbanks will shortly be making requests for particular items in advance of Christmas and how best such donations may be made. As soon as details are available these will be put on the Parish website.

## **Parish Website: [AnnahiltAndMagherahamlet.org](http://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. Since lockdown began in March, the website has hosted online services each Sunday. It also contains a list of upcoming church services and news from our group of parishes, as well as downloadable versions of the parish magazine. For those wishing to attend a service at Annahilt, notification of attendance can also be given via the Parish website up to the **Friday** before.

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](mailto:admin@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org).



[www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org](http://www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org)

## **Parish Magazine**

Any contribution for the December edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell ([roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com) or [magazine@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org](mailto:magazine@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org)) by Sunday 15 November 2020.