

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



September 2020



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The Rector writes....

My dear Parishioners

One of the things I think we are all struggling with at the present time is uncertainty. With the changing guidelines and the ever-present threat of a second wave of coronavirus, we find it hard to make concrete plans for future events or holidays or extended family gatherings or projects. It is even a challenge to do essentials like fulfilling hospital or dental appointments or pleasurable activities like trips to the hairdresser or a restaurant. Normally at this time of year we like to inform people about when our various parochial activities will re-open. We look forward to seeing everyone from our Sunday Schools, Rainbow Guides, The Bowling Club, The Badminton Club and The Mothers' Union. We like to see all who belong to our various organisations in both parishes making their way back and to resuming their activities.

However, this year is unlike any other. Over the summer, people have been asking me questions about when I think these activities may resume? Unfortunately, I have been and still am unable to answer them. That makes it difficult to make plans. It makes it hard to prepare for events like Harvest Thanksgiving when normally our choirs would be rehearsing from September. In the current climate congregational singing in public worship is not encouraged. That said, the words of hymns will usually be printed in an Order of Service to allow worshippers to read and pray them as a soloist or small group sings. And because worshippers will be wearing face coverings it is now considered appropriate to hum or murmur hymns as church attendees find more prayerful.

What I can say is that from 13 September we will be having a Service on Sundays in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt at 10.00 am and from 4 October in Magherahamlet Parish Church at 12.00 noon. However, on Harvest Sunday, 27 September in Annahilt and 25 October in Magherahamlet, there will be an additional evening service at 7.00 pm. Our capacity will be quite restricted because of social distancing. Both Select Vestries are currently working with me and doing everything possible to ensure that each Church is ready for use and that we may get in and out safely.

Since March, Colin Robinette and William Mathers have been doing a brilliant job on all our behalf making services available for people to listen to online and on CDs. With the current regulations about cleaning the church if another group will use it within 72 hours, initially we will focus on providing one service in each Church on Sundays. In due course, I will review how other services can take place as the need

arises. During this month of September the existing online transmission and distribution of CD recording of Services will continue.

We are seeking advice and guidance about the resumption of Sunday School. There are quite a few logistical challenges to overcome but we will be in touch with parents as soon as we have set up a system we believe is safe for both teachers and children and complies with the Government guidelines. In the meantime Sunday School activities in Annahilt will resume by Zoom on Sunday 20 September at 12.00 noon.

I want to thank everyone who has been faithfully phoning others during the pandemic and staying in touch with them even if from a distance. This contact and these phone calls have been a huge support and comfort to many who feel incredibly isolated in these challenging days.

We continue to be very conscious of those who have experienced bereavement in this very challenging season and please be assured of our prayers for you. Although there has only been one death in the parish during the Lockdown period and since, some parishioners have experienced the loss of loved ones who belong to other Churches in the community and beyond. Bereavement is always a most testing and difficult experience and the loss of a loved one with restricted numbers allowed to attend any funeral service and the absence of people to shake your hand or offer hugs at such a difficult time is very hard to bear. Please do stay in touch with those you know who have experienced loss over these past months.

I want to thank everyone for their patience, encouragement and support as we continue to live with all this uncertainty. You will find some devotional resources in this magazine as we continue to remember those who are unable to return to worship for various reasons. A verse which particularly struck me as I think about our desires for the Group of Parishes in an uncertain time is 'Your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.' (Isaiah 26 verse 8.) Let's make this our chief concern as we journey on in faith.

With very best wishes to everyone.

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

Congratulations...

.... to Nicholas Robinette, on his recent engagement to Alison Duffield, Belfast.

....to Raymond & Avril McKeown on the recent celebration on their Golden Wedding anniversary.

.... to all who were successful in recent school examinations. We hope that all students will continue to give of their best whatever the circumstances.

We would be pleased to hear news of the achievements of all of our parishioners.

In-Church Worship in Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

In-Church Services resume in Annahilt on Sunday 13 September with Family Service at 10.00 am. Numbers will be reduced considerably because of the legal requirement to facilitate social distancing. Because of this it would be very helpful if those intending to come to church would advise the Churchwardens in advance. Please indicate the number coming from your household. If you are contacting on behalf of any person(s) from another household please advise separately.

This can be done online up to the **Friday** before. The Churchwardens' e-mail addresses are as follows:

Graham Galbraith grahamgalbraith1154@gmail.com

Aileen Stockdale a.stockdale@qub.ac.uk

Alternatively you may contact the Churchwardens by telephone;

Aileen Stockdale 028 9263 8862 on Wednesday 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Graham Galbraith 07909 998648 on Thursday 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

PRAYER WARRIOR

Do you have a concern or problem and would like someone to pray for you? If so, please contact the Rector (Tel 028 9263 8218) who will be willing to help. This is completely confidential and no details will be passed on to anyone else unless you want them to.

Prayers for the Coronavirus situation

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new wave of coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give Government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people to decide to stay at home instead of travelling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to **wash their hands properly**. And while it may be heart breaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members. **Amen.**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. *Psalm 46:1-2*

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people who are receiving treatment or are in quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. **Amen.**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. *Philippians 4:6*

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection. **Amen.**

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. *Psalm 57:1*

Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming

not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need. **Amen.**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27*

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job. Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread. **Amen.**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *Psalms 23:4*

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty. **Amen.**

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. *1 Peter 5:7*

Prayer for children

Lord, I pray that our children and grandchildren will experience the peace of God this year that exceeds all understanding. I pray they will not worry about things they cannot control, but that You will guard their hearts and minds and keep them trusting in You. I pray they will not only enjoy the peace of God, but peace with God. I pray they will develop a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving as they look to You daily for their needs. I pray that You will give them the capacity for joy that bubbles up from Your peace. **Amen.**

Decoration of Annahilt Church for Harvest

Wednesday 23 September

From **7.30pm**

Gifts of flowers, greenery, corn, fruit, vegetables and other foodstuffs will be gratefully received.

Your assistance with the decoration will also be greatly valued

Please note the change in day and time of this year's harvest decoration. This is to allow 72 hours between decoration and the Sunday services in line with public health guidelines.

Parochial Annual meetings or General Vestries

The General Vestry meetings of both parishes in the Group, originally scheduled to take place in March, were deferred on account of the Lock-Down in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

These meetings have now been rescheduled as follows:

Annahilt	Monday 12 October	8.00 pm	Parochial Hall
Magherahamlet	Wednesday 14 October	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.

This is also a triennial year in which Diocesan Synodspersons and Parochial Nominators will also be elected. The Diocesan Synodspersons represent the Parishes at any meeting of the Down and Dromore Diocesan Synod, usually an annual event

The Parochial Nominators represent the Group of Parishes at any meeting of a Board of Nomination called to appoint a new Rector if a vacancy arose inside the next 3 years.

While only registered Vestrypersons may vote, attendance is open to all parishioners.

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 6 September **Trinity XIII**

10.00 Parish Communion Online

Sunday 13 September **Trinity XIV**

10.00 Family Service Annahilt *Service Sheets*

Sunday 20 September **Trinity XV**

10.00 Morning Prayer Annahilt *Service Sheets*

Annahilt Harvest Festival

Sunday 27 September 2020

10.00 Harvest Parish Communion *Service Sheets*

Preacher: The Revd Clifford Skillen
Former Rector of Finaghy (Belfast)

7.00 Evening Prayer *Service Sheets*

Preacher: The Revd Canon John Auchmuty
Rector of Knock (Belfast)

Sunday 4 October

Trinity XVII

10.00	Parish Communion	Annahilt	<i>Service Sheets</i>
12.00	Parish Communion	Magherahamlet	<i>Service Sheets</i>

Sunday 11 October

Trinity XVIII

10.00	Family Service	Annahilt	<i>Service Sheets</i>
12.00	Family Service	Magherahamlet	<i>Service Sheets</i>

Annahilt Harvest Appeal

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

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

Annahilt Harvest Supper

Unfortunately, due to public health restrictions during the ongoing pandemic emergency the traditional Harvest Supper following the Sunday evening Service will **not** take place this year. This decision has been made with great regret but in present circumstances is unavoidable.

Children's Harvest Offerings

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

Magherahamlet Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 25 October 2020

Sunday School

Sunday School in Annahilt will resume by Zoom on Sunday 20 September at 12.00 noon. The time has been set to enable our young people to attend Church beforehand. Once arrangements for resuming Sunday School in Magherahamlet are finalised, there will be an additional announcement. It is hoped that our young people in both parishes will be encouraged to take seriously their attendance both at Church and Sunday School. This is of vital importance in developing respect for Sunday, God's Day, at an early age. It also facilitates teachers in carrying out their work if young people are regular in their attendance.

Church Loyalty League in Annahilt

To make as accurate and as fair an assessment as possible of our young people's church attendance when awarding prizes in June next year, all children are asked to ensure that they bring their weekly attendance card to church each Sunday. This will be initialled and the child's presence recorded in a roll of attendance.

If a young person is present at another church, they are asked to bring their card to the church they are visiting and have it either stamped there or alternatively have it initialled by the Minister, Church Warden or some other Office Holder on duty. The young person's attendance at such another church will then be recorded in the roll book on the next Sunday he/she is present at their home church.

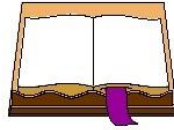
Please note that a card attendance mark is only given for being present at church. Zoom Sunday School attendance is recorded separately by the teachers.

In the event of anyone being late for church please leave the card on the table and the attendance will be recorded. If the card has been inadvertently left at home the attendance should be marked in the roll book so that credit will be given on the card afterwards. We ask for everybody's co-operation in this system of assessment which we believe is for the benefit of all concerned.

The Wightman Cup and the Brown Cup for Sunday School Attendance at Magherahamlet

The criteria for the award of these cups will be outlined once arrangements for Sunday School in Magherahamlet are in place.

From the Parish Registers



Holy Baptism

'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'

30 August 2020

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt

Lola-Nicole Edwina Alana Rachel Priscilla Crawford

In Memoriam

With very deep regret we record the recent death of Mrs Molly Greer, formerly of Aughnaleck House. A member of Loughaghery Presbyterian Church since her marriage, Mrs Greer remained very proud of her Church of Ireland roots and was a stalwart supporter of services and other activities in both Annahilt and Magherahamlet. We extend our deep sympathy to her husband Oliver, daughters Isabel and Catherine, sons-in-law Alan and Trevor and the entire family circle in their great loss.

Flowers for the Churches

Annahilt

September

Day

6

13

20

27

Mrs R Carlisle

Harvest



Church Cleaning, Annahilt

Month

September

18-19

Mrs M Clarke

25-26

Mrs A Maxwell

Mrs H Logan

Mr R Maxwell



October

2-3

Mrs L McCamley

9-10

Mrs E Ogle

16 -17

Mrs J Guiney

Mrs H Cardosi

23-24

Mrs M McCauley

30-31

Mrs B Harrison

Mrs E Harrison

Mothers' UNION

Hello everyone

We hope that you all had a lovely summer and are still keeping well, even now that the great weather has become more inclement and autumnal.

Usually at this stage of the year we would be letting you know of the arrangements for our Area Opening Service in September and our opening meeting in October and the Programme for the rest of this calendar year. Unfortunately due to the current circumstances we regret to inform members in both Annahilt & Magherahamlet Branches that Mothers' Union will not be meeting in October or November this year. We will keep the situation under review and we will update you in November via the parish magazine.

On 8 August Sally McCurry and other Trustee members took part in a Prayer Walk in Lurgan Park. They were accompanied by the Diocesan President Roberta McCartney, the Diocesan Chaplain the Revd Gerald McCartney and the All Ireland President June Butler. The Walk took place on a beautiful day and was enjoyed by all present. Everyone walked at a safe distance!

It is lovely to hear that you all continue to keep in contact with and pray for each other. As you pray for those who have been bereaved in recent months I know you will continue to pray for Madeline McMullan whose husband Cecil lost his sister and Elaine Finney whose husband Peter lost his father. Please also pray for those members who are ill or who are coping with illness within their families. We know you all enjoy the Midday prayers. These prayers for September 2020 are included for you below along with the Mothers' Union Prayer.

Finally, do let us know or any of the Committee members know if there is anything we can do to help you during this time. Also, if you know of any member who is ill please let us know.

Wishing all our members well,

Beth
Avril

Esme
Anne

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.*

*Mothers' Union—Midday Prayers—September 2020
Building hope and confidence.
Hope in all weathers.*

Monday: Hope in all weathers

My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
Psalms 121:2, 5-6

How faithful is our God!

How constant is your love!

Whatever the weather we walk through today,
sunshine or rain, good times or hard;
we trust in your sure and steadfast hope
and anchor our lives on the security of your love.
In the midst of the storm
you give us your peace.
In the warmth of the sun
you give us your joy.

In the sight of the rainbow
you give us your hope.
We praise you, our faithful God. Amen.

Tuesday: Hope in the storm

They cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.
They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.
Psalm 107:28-30

When our life is rocked by raging waters of trouble and distress
Lord, hear our cries for peace.

**Lord God, you are our refuge
in times of trouble,
help when storm clouds gather,
strength in our weakness,
peace within our busyness,
the focus of our worship,
our confidence and hope.**

May we know God's peace
within the storms of life;
and in the quietness beyond,
as the waves subside,
hear that gentle whisper,
'Be still, my child, and rest.' **Amen.**

Wednesday: Hope in the sunshine

Oh, how sweet the light of day,
And how wonderful to live in the sunshine!
Even if you live a long time, don't take a single day for granted.
Take delight in each light-filled hour.

Ecclesiastes 11:7-7 (The Message)

Lord, bathe me every morning in the sunlight of your Word.
Let it shine brightly on my sins, but not to my despair.
Warm my soul with grace.
Direct my steps with truth.

**Fill my words with gentleness.
Guide my eyes towards the works**

you've prepared just for me.

Strengthen my heart with courage.

As the earth feels the warmth of the sun,
let me feel your love.

As the earth feels the warmth of the sun,
let others feel your love from me.

**Thank you that I, like the sun,
could rise with you this morning. Amen.**

Thursday: Hope in the cloud

We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist.

But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright!

We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly
just as he knows us!

1 Corinthians 13:12 (The Message)

All-seeing God,

pierce the haze of our weaknesses.

**Flood the eyes of our hearts with light
and break through our clouded vision.**

When our way ahead is hard to see
we pray for your clarity to penetrate
the clouds of our partial knowledge
and blurred understanding.

When hurts and disappointment
obscure our way through life,
shine your light through mists of confusion
to bring clearer insight and hope. **Amen.**

Friday: Hope in the drought

The seeds die in the parched ground,
and the grain crops fail.

The barns stand empty,
and granaries are abandoned.

Joel 1:17

Lord of all weathers,

who created the world with enough to supply the needs of all,
we pray for those in desperate situations of drought and famine:

**Where natural conditions have held back the rains,
where natural disasters have led to famine,
we pray for your mercy, Lord of the harvest.**

Throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out your blessing
on those who are suffering a drought of hope and a famine of faith,
as they battle with their extremities of hardship.

**Show us the part that we can play in bringing
hope and practical solutions,
that crops and lives may flourish once more. Amen.**

Saturday: Hope in the rainbow

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it
and remember the everlasting covenant between God
and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.

Genesis 9:16

Loving Lord,

send the rays of your divine sunshine
to drive away the showers of earthly concerns
and light up our lives with the rainbow hues
of your multi-faceted blessing.

Lift our eyes that we may delight
in the brightness and beauty
of your covenant love

which colours our lives with joy and hope.

**O Christ our Morning Star,
Splendour of Light Eternal,
shining with the glory of the rainbow,
come and waken us
from the greyness of our apathy
and renew us in your gift of hope. Amen.**

Annahilt Parish Bowling Club

Mid-September is usually the start of the Indoor Bowling season in Annahilt and gives many in the locality a couple of nights fellowship and friendship, not to mention three or four nights for some members who also bowl in other clubs, however Covid-19 means that we need to defer the opening of the season.



The Irish Indoor Bowling Association (the governing body) await guidelines from Sport NI however at the last IIBA meeting in August they are indicating that they cannot see a recommendation for re-opening during 2020. Given the current increase in community transmission and the greater risk of complications in those in the older age group and those with underlying health conditions who may contract the virus, we advise that we cannot open in Annahilt until further notice. We will keep you apprised via the magazine and the parish website and also directly to members of the club. If anyone has any queries please contact Patricia on 028 92665310.

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.

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. 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. The site will be continually developed, so if you have any submissions, suggestions or requests relating to the website, these can be sent to admin@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org.



www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

Parish Magazine

Any contribution for the next edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell (roger.maxwell1@btinternet.com or magazine@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org) by Sunday 20 September 2020.