

AUTUMN 2017 EDITION

SAINTS *Alive!*

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THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM

30 YEARS NOT OUT

On Sunday 21 June 1987 I was ordained, along with five others, in St Anne's Cathedral Belfast by Bishop William McCappin. Three months later Bishop McCappin married Helen and me in Holy Trinity Parish Church, Joanmount, in Belfast - what a year. Although these were two momentous milestones in my life, I do not view them as full stops or the end of the process. Rather, they are important points along my life's journey on which many people have left their mark and will continue to do so.

I have been blessed with two parents, Don and Claire who kept the promises they made at my baptism on 28 October 1961 in St Mary's Parish Church on the Crumlin road in Belfast. By their word and good example, they gave me every opportunity to grow in my faith. Through my membership in the 118th Company of the Boys' Brigade, I came under the gentle influence of Leslie Lucas our Captain. His Sunday morning Bible Classes opened up the treasures of the Bible to me in ways he will never have realised at the time.

If God speaks to us, then I have felt his touch on a few occasions. I am celebrating thirty years in the ordained ministry this year because when I was 16 or 17, The Rev Jim Moore who was my rector, read out a letter from the House of Bishops asking people to think about ordination. I wanted to be an architect and at 17 there was no street cred in being a minister. Jim in his sermon said that in his life he decided that his choice was either to bury his sense of vocation and fight God for the rest



of his life, or to give in and examine the notion of vocation. I had to explore this strange call to ordained ministry.

Several people over the next few years out of the blue asked me if I ever thought about ordination. Our curate, Alistair Grimason, was one. We took the youth club together, we played the guitar and formed a music group. We then got a new rector who had a daughter, Helen Clyde, a couple of years younger than me. Cupid's arrow let me see inside the rectory and bit by bit the idea of vocation and ministry didn't seem so bad. I have been blessed in my thirty years of ordained ministry and in my marriage to have had such a wonderful and supportive wife in Helen.

You cannot exercise your ministry in isolation and for twenty five years of the thirty years of my ordained ministry it has been my joy to have been Curate Assistant and then Vicar in Antrim Parish. Although I have been honoured to have been Archdeacon of Connor for over 15 of those years, the joy and privilege of being your Vicar cannot be calculated. Together we have been through a great variety of experiences, many of them happy, some sad and tragic. These are the patterns of life and death. It is in these experiences that we look to the church and our faith in God to support and sustain us. As I have tried my best to be with you in these situations, I thank you for your encouragement as you have helped to shape and develop me in my ministry.

Stephen McBride

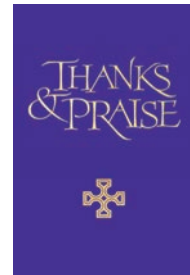
DEDICATION OF GIFTS

DEDICATION OF GIFTS - SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER AT 11.00AM

On Sunday 17 September at our Family Service we will be dedicating a new hymn book supplement - Thanks and Praise - which has been given in memory of Trevor Fleming by his family. Trevor, who died last year, was a former member of our choir and the gift of 'words only' books and music editions for our choir is a most generous gift and will add greatly to the hymns we sing in church.

We will also be dedicating the gift of a silver cruet and pyx which will be used at our monthly healing services.

As well as prayer with the laying on of hands for those who are ill, we will also now be able to offer the anointing with oil which is a practice which goes right back to the beginning of the church. ***'Is anyone among you ill? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.'* James 5:14.** This gift has been donated by a parishioner who has greatly valued the blessings received through our ministry of healing services and the prayer support of parishioners.



NEXT STEPS

RETURNS ON SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM

We at Next Steps had a cracking good first year as you'll recall from the previous parish magazine. We hope that this year more will come as we will have year 8's coming up. The strength of any organisation lies in three areas: good leadership, good programming and good relationships. I think that the relationships we've built up over the last year with the kids will propel us forward into this year when we will seek to help them grow their faith more so. As for the program – we will have a similar routine in that we will have three weeks in the parish hall and the fourth week will be a fun night of some description.

This year we'll begin with a fun night to help bring in the new starts. But first off we are having a weekend to Castlewellan along with other youth groups from Connor Diocese. Engage Connor Youth and the Diocesan Youth Council have organised the weekend. All we have to do is get the kids there. I hope to have some pictures for our next magazine. I am looking forward to this year, with great excitement because as I always say, leaders learn more from kids than they give to them.

Next Steps is on every Sunday in the Parish Hall from 7.30pm-9.00pm.



WHAT'S ON

EVENING SERVICES WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

FUNDAY CLUB

Our Funday Club resumes on **Sunday 10 September**. Please note children must be of primary school age for Funday Club.

YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club will resume on **Monday 11 September at 7.30pm** and is open to members of All Saints' and their friends who attend secondary school.

RAINBOWS

Rainbows begin on **Monday 11 September at 6.00pm**, and continue each Monday night from 6.00pm - 7.30pm. in All Saints' Church Hall. If you are aged between 4 and 7 years old, would like to make new friends, play games, make things and have a lot of fun, then come along and join us.

3rd ANTRIM BROWNIES

Brownies begin **Monday 11 September at 6.00pm**. We meet every Monday in All Saints' Church Hall in Railway Street, Antrim from 6.00pm - 7.30pm. We do badge work, games, gardening and at Christmas we go Carol singing.

5th ANTRIM SCOUTS

Begins with registration on **Tuesday 5 September at 6.30pm**. Beavers (6 - 8 Year Olds), Cubs (8 - 10½ year olds) and Scouts will begin on **Tuesday 12 September**.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday 8 October - Gifts of flowers, fruit and vegetables can be left in the Church on Friday 6 October from 7.00pm onwards. Volunteers are also requested to come and help decorate the Church at this time.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12 November - An Act of Remembrance will take place during the Morning Service at 11.30am. The town's united Act of Remembrance will be held in the Antrim Forum at 3.00pm on the same day.

CHORAL EVENSONG

Resumes at 6.30pm on **Sunday 8 October** in All Saints'. This service is a festival of choral music and the service concludes with refreshments in the Massereene Chapel.

BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club resumes on **Wednesday 13 September** at 7.30pm. New members will be made very welcome. The Bowling Club provides many hours of friendship, sport and relaxation throughout the dark hours of winter. Instead of sitting at the fireside why not come along and join in? It doesn't matter if you have never bowled before, you'll soon be given a few handy hints.

HOSPICE COFFEE MORNING

Sunday 15 October after Family Service.

THE EVERGREENS

Begins on **Tuesday 12 September** at 11.00am.

- 12 Sept A special West End speaker
- 10 Oct Brian Gault
- 14 Nov Help with Crime Prevention - Andrew Cunningham
- 12 Dec Christmas Lunch

MOTHERS' UNION

Summer is slipping by quickly and autumn is on its way. I hope everyone had a relaxing and peaceful break away from all activities and you are now feeling refreshed and ready for another season of activity.

- 14 Sept Holy Communion followed by Rev Aaron McAlister - My Faith Journey
- 12 Oct Alison Ford - 'A day in the life of Give My Head Peace.'
- 9 Nov Cherith Wilson - Helping others
- 8 Dec Christmas Dinner

We are looking forward to see you all and new members are always very welcome.



HOG ROAST

Following last year's marvellous and delicious Hog Roast, we are staging another one on **Sunday 17 September** in the parish centre following morning service. Tickets are priced as follows, Adult £7.50, Children over 5 £5, Family £20 (2 adults & 2 children)

PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

25 June	Lexi Harper & Kade Bertie Alexander	daughter and son of Zoe Millar & Gareth Erwin 17 Colonsay Park, Ballymena
13 August	Ethan Joshua Terence	son of Lisa & Kenny Campbell 73 Steeple Road, Antrim
	Amber Eileen	daughter of Karen & Robert Steele 71 Birch Hill Park, Antrim

HOLY MATRIMONY

WE CONGRATULATE

16 August	Ronnie Kirk Bronwen Robinson	23 Brantwood Gardens, Antrim 23 Brantwood Gardens, Antrim
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CHRISTIAN BURIAL / CREMATION

WE SYMPATHISE WITH THOSE WHO MOURN FOR

26 July	Victor Keys	115 Irish Hill Road, Ballyclare
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PERPARING FOR THE 'FOURTH QUARTER'

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Life can be compared to a football or basketball game, or perhaps the final minutes of a rugby match. At some point you reach the fourth quarter. You feel tired, maybe hurting a little, but there is still time on the clock. There are still opportunities to score. Chances are, they are the most important minutes of the game. This is where you win or lose the contest. Unlike football, in real life we cannot see the clock. We do not know how much time we have left. We are also not certain about the score. Are we winning or losing? All we really know is that the game is not over. Our friends are still watching and cheering, and we need to finish strong.

Colonel Harlan Sanders realized that he couldn't live off of his Social Security benefits, so he started Kentucky Fried Chicken (now known as KFC) when he was 68. Arnold Palmer was still designing golf courses when he died earlier this year at 87. We could cite hundreds of other stellar examples of people who achieved much of their finest work in the latter stage of their lives. So the final quarter is important - even if we never will be

famous. When we are young, it seems we have forever in front of us, so we have little concern about the final stages of our lives. However, when we reach our 50s or 60s, we start to realize the time for making our mark, a meaningful contribution in life, is growing shorter. So it is wise to regard these latter years in terms of stewardship, even a sacred trust. The Bible has much to say about this:

Time is fleeting. Time passes by relentlessly. We cannot stop it, nor can we conserve it or store it up for later use. It can be tragic to look back on our lives and think of time we failed to use wisely. If we do not use time, we lose it. **Take advantage of opportunities while you can.** In our "fourth quarter," we have accumulated a lifetime of experience and expertise. When opportunities present themselves to utilize those abilities, we should do so with eagerness.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1).



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

**THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER -
SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER**

in aid of Macmillan, Lough Neagh Rescue
and church funds.

Plans are well under way for a festival of Christmas trees which will tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Each organisation in the parish, schools in the locality and a few others have been invited to create spectacular trees which will interpret themes such as, Love, Joy and Peace, and the role of the major characters who gathered in Bethlehem such as the Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds, Wise Men and Angels. There will also be a St Nicholas tree, the original Santa Claus.

The church will be open to parishioners, friends and members of the public from 10.00am on Thursday morning and there will be a concert featuring the Harlandic Male Voice Choir, local schools and our own choir on Thursday evening at 7.30pm. The Festival will conclude on Sunday 3 December at 7.00pm with a Town Carol Service.

We will be looking for volunteers to help act as stewards, catering assistants, money counters and decorators. Please, when we ask for your help, think about giving up a couple of hours to assist in what should be a marvellous event not only for All Saints but for Antrim town.

We are hoping to borrow 25 Christmas tree stands which will be returned at the end of the festival and also, if you have any old Bible, we are hoping to construct a tree using Bibles.

There will be an opportunity for families or individuals to sponsor a Christmas tree for £50. If you would wish to do this, please contact either Audrey in the office or Stephen or Aaron. A list will be placed in the porch in the coming weeks for you to sign up.

Summer Holiday Fun Club Adventure Cruise

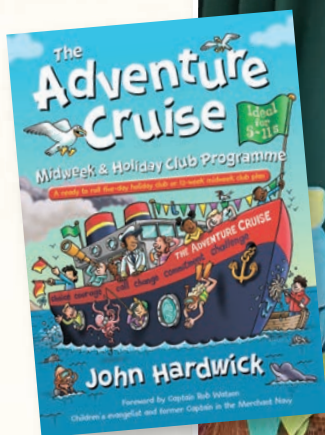
It's been a couple of years since All Saints' ran a Holiday Fun Club, and its return has been met with immense success. This year we had a nautical theme over three nights based on the letter "C", as in the "C" of Call, of Courage and of Choice, each one covered over the three nights by songs, puppet plays and crafts. As well as this we had songs with actions and games. There were fights with pirate swords and a visit from a pirate's parrot. The kids had a great time as the pictures show, with games, craft activities such as making key rings, decorated fish and prayer boats. At the beginning of it all the leaders joined in the actions with the songs because it was good to be seen to be taking part – but really in the end I think they enjoyed the actions/dancing even more than the children!

What seemed daunting at the beginning of the planning stage ended up being loads of fun every night of the club's activities. Everyone who participated had taken part in a holiday fun club before and so they were old hands at it. From a co-ordinators' viewpoint relying on good group participation is a must. Everyone pulling together, not having to check up on anyone, is a co-ordinators' dream, which thankfully I got to live.

Numbers themselves are not how you measure the success of a fun club; you measure it by the smiles you see on the kids' faces. It was never dull, and one girl remarked on the Wednesday night as she was leaving "Thank you for tonight. I really loved it." Our Holiday Fun Club did have around 35-40 children per night, a comfortable number which was easily managed. If we had to deal with any more children, there wouldn't have been enough room. Will we see any more children come to church or our organisations? Only God knows the answer to that question. But seeds have been sown, and there is time to water them.

I would wish to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped out. Without you our Holiday Fun Club wouldn't have existed this year. I hope that next year we will be able to build upon the connections from this year.

Captain Aaron





THE MOST DANGEROUS WORKPLACE WEAPON

Violence in the workplace and in the home is something which happens too regularly and often leaves not only physical but mental scars. There is a very different form of violent behaviour that receives much less attention, but every day causes great damage. Harsh, disparaging comments toward one another can create a destructive environment and thanks to technology, the danger of sharp tongues has expanded into the virtual realm. In haste, people craft mean-spirited emails and text messages, via various social media outlets.

U.S. President Harry Truman recognized the jeopardy created by communicating before time could cool heated emotions. He established a personal rule that any letter written in anger must remain at his desk for 24 hours before it could be mailed. Only after this "cooling off period," if his thoughts had not changed, would he proceed to mail a letter. It is said by the end of his life, Truman had accumulated enough un-mailed angry letters to fill a large desk drawer.

But even President Truman was responding to a problem that had already existed for thousands of years. The Bible addresses this in numerous passages, notably the book of James. It states, "...the tongue is a small part of the body but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue is also a fire...no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.... With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness" (James 3:5-9).

Think before speaking. We often feel totally justified in what we are thinking, but expressing those thoughts aloud can cause much more harm than good. **Seek to build up, not to tear down.** In anger we can use words to attack others, but it is much more productive to use words to build them up and offer encouragement.

Robert J. Tamasy

WHO'S WHO

Vicar: The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride, The Vicarage, 10 Vicarage Gardens, Antrim
Tel: (028) 9446 2186 E-mail: archdeacon@connor.anglican.org

Curate: The Rev Aaron McAlister MTh, 7 Beechfield, Antrim
Tel: (028) 9446 3469 E-mail: aaronmcaster@btinternet.com

Parish Administrator: Audrey McClements - Church Office
Tel: (028) 9446 0042 E-mail: all.saints2@btconnect.com

Vicar's Churchwarden: Valerie Houston **People's Churchwarden:** Wendy Smyth

Vicar's Glebewarden: Paul Smyth **People's Glebewarden:** Cecil Barton

Select Vestry: Jacqueline Adams, Sylvia Barton, Cynthia Cherry, Trevor Davies, Noreen Hurst, William Hurst, Mervyn Kidd, Audrey McClements, Brian Neill, Claire Thompson, John Wallace

Hon Treasurer:	Mrs Cynthia Cherry, 6 Rosevale, Antrim	Tel: 07703 547 647
Parish Recorder:	Mr Brian Neill, 13 Vicarage Gardens, Antrim	Tel: (028) 9446 3708
Caretaker:	Mr C Barton, 40 Oaklands, Antrim	Tel: (028) 9446 5770

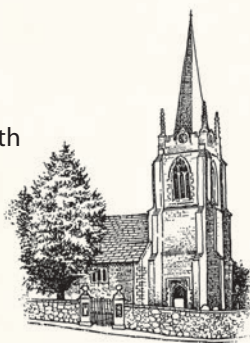
The Clergy will be grateful for any notification of serious illness in the Parish and for information regarding the admission and discharge of parishioners from hospitals outside Antrim

SUNDAY SERVICES:

8.30 am	Holy Communion
11.30 am	Morning Prayer Parish Communion on 1st Sunday of each month
6.30 pm	Evening Prayer Holy Communion on 4th Sunday

FAMILY SERVICE:

11.00 am	3rd Sunday of each month
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MIDWEEK SERVICE:

11.00 am	Wednesday Holy Communion in the Parish Centre
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FUNDAY CLUB:

11.30 am	Junior and Senior in Parish Church and later in Church Hall. Children leave Morning Prayer at appropriate point in the Service. No Club on 3rd Sunday (Family Service).
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