

JESUS vs SANTA WHO WILL WIN IN YOUR HOME?



We recently went over to London for the inside of three days to do a little Christmas shopping, to take in the sights and sounds of the capital city getting ready for the festive season and to see a couple of shows - I did manage to fall asleep during *The Mouse Trap* and got a dunt when I snored!

Unfortunately I hadn't calculated the dates properly and our trip was a week early. So we didn't get the benefit of the Black Friday bargains we had hoped for. However, trying on a couple of items and a taking note of sizes, with the benefit of the internet the items are on their way for Santa.

The Flying Angel decorations on Regent Street are magnificent after dark and the imagination of the shop window decorations all adds to an atmosphere which can put a smile on the face of even the most miserable Grinch.

Covent Garden's decorations and its Christmas tree are a focal point for many visitors. A festive coffee flavoured with cinnamon and spices or canapé of smoked goat with frankincense are not part of my everyday diet, but you can indulge yourself once a year.

It is easy to get caught up in the festivities and bright lights of central London, but alongside this, we also need to focus a little on the 'reason for the season.' Tucked away, just off Oxford Street is the majestic All Saints', Margaret Street and whenever I am in London, I try my best to step inside and enjoy with peace and quiet of this beautiful house of prayer. Helen and I were the only two people

inside the recently refurbished church and fortunately, the organist was practising which added to the occasion. We were able to stop and rest our feet and our souls and to say a silent prayer for all the blessings in our lives before retracing our steps

to the shop where I had located my must have suede boots.

I hope that we all can combine the secular and sacred aspects, the Jesus and the Santa elements of the festive season in the coming weeks. I hope Santa doesn't overlook you, but more importantly, I hope that we all find time with the angels, shepherds and Wise Men to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, who in that stable in Bethlehem, came alongside us.

Stephen McBride



A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF CONNOR

THE RT REV ALAN F ABERNETHY

Dear friends,

The last twelve months have been exhausting and it has been difficult to focus on anything other than my treatment plan. I have just received my last proton injection as part of the clinical trial and this stage of the journey is complete. I now need time to recover and regain my strength and energy.

Having advanced prostate cancer means that I will be receiving quarterly hormone injections for the rest of my life and will have very regular checkups with my oncologist. There are no guarantees, but it is hoped that I will be free of further treatment for years to come.

As a family, we are incredibly grateful for the amazing care and support we have received from the Cancer Centre at the Belfast City Hospital. We are also conscious that we have been carried by the love and prayers of so many people, especially the people of Connor diocese. I cannot thank you all enough for your faithfulness and care in praying for me and my family.

My family have been amazing in love and support and they have also been carrying their own hopes and fears. We have also been very blessed by the peace and joy we have experienced, as Jesus has clearly journeyed with us on this strange and unwelcome journey. He has been with us, giving us hope and healing.

Over the last few months, I have had various conversations with my oncologist, my GP and my family. With a very heavy heart and spirit, it has become clear to me that for the sake of the diocese and my own long-term health, I should retire on health grounds.

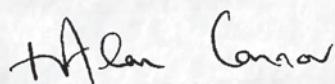
My medical advice has been clear that I will not have the energy I used to have, and the ongoing treatment will affect my ability to fulfil the very demanding role as Bishop of Connor.

I have followed the process necessary and it has been agreed that I can retire on health grounds. The Archbishop of Armagh has been supportive of this and I have informed him that I will retire on 31st December 2019, giving the necessary three months' notice. This will also give me time to recover and to be able to plan a move to our new home.

I am conscious that yet again the responsibility for the diocese falls to the three Archdeacons and I am very grateful for their willingness to serve the diocese in this way. At this stage, my aim is to be in St Anne's Cathedral on Christmas Eve and in Lisburn Cathedral on Christmas Day. This will allow me to fulfil my ministry as Bishop once more before I retire.

I will write to you again when my plans have been finalized, but suffice to say it has been an amazing privilege and joy to have served you as Bishop.

Be assured of my continued prayers for you all.
Grace and peace



+Alan Connor



CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday 15 December 2019

11.00am Family Lessons and Carols for Christmas (*this will be followed by coffee and mince pies*)

Sunday 22 December 2019

11.30am Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24 December 2019

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25 December 2019

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service & Nativity Play

Sunday 29 December 2019

11.30am Readings and Carols for Christmas

There will be no service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 1 January.

FUNDAY CLUB HOLIDAYS

There will be no Funday Club on **22 and 29 December**. Club will resume on **5 January 2019**. Prize giving will be at the Family Service on **Sunday 19 January**.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Our **Hospice Coffee Morning** raised **£461.00** - a magnificent sum for a very worthy cause. Please continue to support our **Smartie Tube Appeal** which helps to fund our link with St John's Theological College in Kitwe, Zambia where we are aiming to send **£6,000** per year to support The Rev Dr Keith Scott. To date, the tubes of Smarties have raised **£1173.55**.

FREEWILL OFFERINGS

The Hon Treasurer wishes to close the books for the year ending December 2019 on Sunday 29 December. Freewill Offering Envelopes for 2019 received after this will be recorded in your total for 2020.

If you wish to make your donations by Standing Order, please contact the Hon Treasurer, Cynthia Cherry on 028 9446 3173 or the Parish Administrator, Audrey McClements on 028 9446 0042

BAPTISM GOODY BAGS

You will see from the parish registers page that we have a great deal of baptisms throughout the year in All Saints. It is a sign that we are a welcoming congregation on a Sunday that so many come to have their children baptised in our parish. As part of showing our new families how much we value them, Peter and Stephen will be calling with the families in the week after the baptism with a goody bag containing a photo of the baptism, a huge bar of chocolate to get through the difficult days and some cappuccino sachets for the difficult nights and a Teddy from our Holey Knitters Group.



UNITE

This is a new service that is taking place on the first Sunday of each month at 7.00pm. It Unites musicians, people and clergy from the seven parishes in our deanery and provides us with an opportunity to meet in an informal way to share in some lively music and worship. The service is only one hour long and it concludes with pizza and ice cream. There is something for everyone in the. Keep a watchful eye out for where we will be worshipping in January.



EVENING SERVICES

We will be continuing to have evening services in All Saints' on the second and fourth Sundays at 6.30pm

2nd Sunday Choral Evensong

4th Sunday Healing Service with Holy Communion

There will be no evening service on the 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month

YOU SAY GOODBYE AND I SAY HELLO

REFLECTIONS FROM AARON, ANDREA AND PETER

AARON AND MELANIE'S FAREWELL

There was a series of presentations to mark the farewell of Aaron and Melanie in the days approaching Aaron's final service in All Saints. Farewells are always bitter sweet occasions when you leave people you have grown to love and venture into the unknown. All Saints' does a marvellous job in nurturing its curates and preparing them for the day when they take on a parish of their own. Each curate leaves their mark on a parish and Aaron is no exception to this wonderful tradition. He inaugurated the early morning Holy Communion on Easter Sunday on the Lough Shore followed by bacon baps. He has laid the foundations for a very successful Next Steps youth group, he brought a great gift of fun and laughter and Melanie has delighted us with her culinary skills and many parish social events. It was wonderful to see the excellent support Aaron received at his service of Institution as rector of Derriaghy parish.

In a letter of thanks to the Select Vestry and parishioners for the gifts received, Aaron and Melanie wrote:

"Thank you, not only for your gifts, but for your constant support and encouragement over the past three years. Antrim Parish is very fortunate to have such a wonderful Select vestry looking after it's furnishings, fabrics and finances. It has been wonderful to have worked and worshipped in a parish when you have all exemplified what Christianity is about – not shouting it out and doing little, but letting your love and faith be seen in action."



Look after Stephen and Peter and in the near future we will pop in to say 'Hi.' Melanie misses you all and has many open spots in her diary for coffee engagements, but is also making a life here in Derriaghy too.

All our best wishes and prayers, Aaron, Melanie and Ellie"



ANDREA COTTER REFLECTS

I have spent the last ten weeks with you in All Saints' Parish. It was wonderful to join with you in worship every Sunday Morning. I felt it a privilege to lead you through some of the services and it was very special to explore God's word with you. I hope you felt challenged by my thoughts on the Good Samaritan and the Rich Man and Lazarus. Every Sunday was different from celebrating Baptisms, Aaron's Leaving Service, Harvest, Family Services, All Saints' Day and Remembrance. The monthly healing service was a very special evening and I know many people were touched by this ministry, as was I. I learnt a lot during my time with you and have grown in confidence, experience and insight. During my time with you in Antrim I very much enjoyed visiting a small number of you in your homes. It was wonderful to chat with you and get to know you just a little bit. I very much valued the experience of Archdeacon McBride and it was great to have the opportunity to work alongside him and to learn from him and his experiences. I am confident that it will all have proved useful when I write my leadership assignment over Christmas.



When I introduced myself in the parish magazine in the summer, I said that I felt hospitality was one of the greatest gifts that we as churches could foster in our communities. The hospitality that Richard and I have received in All Saints has been incredible. I really loved the prosecco and pamper night that was held in September and it was a great introduction to the Parish. We both felt so supported and nurtured during our time with you. It was lovely that we both had the opportunity to take a service together in October.

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for the beautiful flowers and the gift voucher that I was presented with on my last Sunday. It really was very generous and am very touched and affirmed by the short time I have spent in your midst. Thank-you and I will continue to hold you all in prayer as I continue my journey in ministry. God Bless.

Andrea



MY FIRST YEAR IN ALL SAINTS' PARISH THE REV PETER BLAKE, M Th.

It has been an action packed 12 months! I have so many great memories of 2019. The Mad Hatters' tea party, having a great chuckle with the Blind Date crew. The glorious Easter sunrise service. Seeing Lauren singing with the choir for the first time. Sitting chatting with folks in their living rooms about life's turns – joyful and difficult. There have been so many fantastic experiences. We are very grateful for how warmly you have welcomed for us as a family.

My ordination to the Priesthood at St Patrick's, Ballymena was a real highlight. It felt amazing to be able to stand with my family and friends to accept the responsibility of being one of your clergy. As ever, there was a brilliant turn out from All Saints'. That meant a lot! I've enjoyed supporting the Unite service and getting to know the local clergy in the Deanery. We have a great team spirit and working with them has been a real blessing.

Being able to serve you all as Priest this last few months has been special. I really enjoy the 8.30am celebration of the Holy Communion and presiding at it. Equally, I've greatly enjoyed taking part in the various morning services. Whether it's strumming on my guitar, standing at the Holy Table or sharing a cuppa, I keenly feel the great privilege and joy of ministry in our Parish.

Getting my Master's degree in theology at Trinity College, Dublin at the start of November was a great treat. It was very hard work and I am just delighted to have completed it. Denise and I had a lovely time that day. I thoroughly recommend an hour in front of the fire at Bewley's if you are ever in Dublin.

This year hasn't all been easy going with the death of my father Stanley. I am very grateful for the amazing support that you have been in the tougher moments. As I have tried to serve you, you have all cared for me. I do pray that 2020 will be a continued time of encouragement for us all as a Parish. God's peace and blessing to your homes and families during this festive season,

Peter

CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

LELBS

ISENTPIOTA

CLEAND

GIGABRNDEER

TEWHAR

SCRALO

EDINERER

GOSTINCK

ESOKOCI

GNGEGO

GLISEH

LEVES

TENESSRP

DRANLAG

SOTTLEMIE

FITG

YALOHID

LEGAN

LENO

STRANEMON

CREDEMBE

WOMANNS

DANCY ENCA

SLITEN

EYLU

PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM

BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

7 April 2019	William Alexander Gaynor	son of Shirley Gaynor-Ward and Kristofer Ward
	Reevi Matilda	daughter of Karly Mitchell and Aaron McIlhatton
	Will Bernard	son of Louise Turkington and Paul Blelock
	Jack James	son of Emma and Mark Trimmings
28 April 2019	Kyle John Smyth	son of Catherine Rowan and John Smyth
12 May 2019	Caiden Patrick Doherty	son of Michelle Myers and Benjamin Alexander
	Daisy-May	daughter of Michelle Manwaring & David McClellan
	Grace Louise Ellen	daughter of Deborah & Michael Collins
9 June 2019	Katherine Audrey Lindsay	daughter of Louise Johnston & Christopher Barnes
	Thomas Christopher	son of Katherine Barnes and Thomas Reid
30 June 2019	Ava & Ella	daughters of Michelle Rogers and Glenn Campbell
14 July 2019	Amelia Rose Charlotte	daughter of Jamie Penny & Mark Duncan
	Josh Robert James	son of Jamie Penny & Mark Duncan
11 August 2019	Bobby Trevor	son of Carly Moore & Robert Knox
8 September 2019	Anna	daughter of Connie McKinstry & Gareth Tate
	Alannah Jane	daughter of Nichola & Alan Mills
	Casey	daughter of Ivanna Allen & Matthew Napier
29 September 2019	Kara Mae Jennifer	daughter of Emily & Andrew Floyd
	Harrison Matthew	son of Natalie Reid & Christopher Rantin
20 October 2019	Aaron	son of Rebecca Rantin & Dermot Scullion
24 November 2019	Alfie James	son of Laura & David Moore
	Rosie Isobel	daughter of Keri & Joseph Bradley

CHRISTIAN BURIAL / CREMATION

WE SYMPATHISE WITH THOSE WHO MOURN FOR

17 September	Julia Patton
20 September	Mary McCabe
25 September	Agnes Giffen
1 October	Stanley Blake
24 October	Marie Beattie
28 October	Maureen Church
31 October	Sadie Gallagher
12 November	Maude Montgomery
20 November	Elmer Bates
20 November	Cora Guthrie

HOLEY KNITTERS

The members of the Holey Knitters group have enjoyed a very active autumn season which culminated in a craft sale at the November Mothers' Union meeting. There were fluffy toilet roll holders, cuddly toys, cross stitch Christmas cards and baby accessories among the crafts on sale. It was a marvellous display of the talents with which each of the knitters are blessed. With the demand for baptism teddies expected, the Holey Knitters welcome new members. If you are free on a Monday evening from 7.30pm and would like to join in the fun and fellowship, we would love to see you in the new year.



GILLIAN McELROY

After ten years as our Rainbow leader, Gillian McElroy (centre) is stepping aside from her role. We are indebted to Gillian for her faithfulness and enthusiasm over the past ten years and are most grateful to her for her commitment. Gillian will have many, many happy memories of fun-filled Monday evenings and the smiling faces of all the girls she has looked after in our Rainbows group. Amanda Getty (front right) is taking over from Gillian and she and her fellow leaders wish Gillian all the very best.



OASIS FOOD BANK

In association with the Oasis Group we have been joining with churches in Antrim in supporting the food bank project which has provided much needed practical care for families in the Antrim area who are enduring difficult times. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, it would be good to think about those for whom Christmas will be a time of difficulty. Families are referred through Social Services to the Oasis food bank who provide them with a food parcel. Please consider bringing an item or two from the list below and leave it in the box in the porch. This is a marvellous way of showing God's love in a very practical action. I hope we will give it our fullest support.

Grocery List Suggestions:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| ■ Cereal | ■ Teabags | ■ Super Noodle / Pot Noodle |
| ■ Pasta | ■ Coffee | ■ Crisps |
| ■ Rice | ■ Sugar (500g) | ■ Cooking Sauce |
| ■ Long Life Milk (UHT or powdered) | ■ Tinned Meat | ■ Diluted Juice |
| ■ Tinned / Packet Soup | ■ Tinned Spaghetti Hoops | ■ Toilet Rolls |
| ■ Tinned Vegetables / Tomatoes | ■ Tinned / Instant Mash Potatoes | ■ Bar of Soap |
| ■ Tinned Fish | ■ Tinned Fruit | ■ Shampoo |
| ■ Fruit Juice (long life carton) | ■ Tinned Dessert | ■ Deodorant (Roll on only, male & female) |
| | ■ Pasta Sauce | ■ Baby Wipes |
| | ■ Cuppa Soup | ■ Shower Gel (Male & female) |
| | ■ Biscuits | |
| | ■ Tinned Dessert | |

THE VISIT OF THE MAGI

On coming to the house, they saw the child with the mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and present him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 2: 1-12 (NIV).

PRIESTS
GOD
STAR
WORSHIPED
MYRRH
CHILD
MAGI
EAST
BETHLEHEM
HOUSE

TEACHERS
SEARCH
KING
INCENSE
WORSHIP
BORN
CHRIST
MARY
MOTHER
HEROD

Y	W	A	Y	L	X	P	H	C	H	H	M	Q	D	H
K	N	N	T	Y	I	G	R	Q	V	O	E	G	M	B
W	I	U	A	W	C	N	N	I	R	U	W	R	Y	R
O	V	N	R	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	R	O	G
R	W	Q	G	X	T	R	V	E	K	S	A	O	M	D
S	O	M	C	H	R	I	S	T	N	M	T	E	K	E
H	R	O	V	B	G	H	V	L	M	S	H	S	O	H
I	S	T	Y	L	O	O	U	G	I	E	E	H	C	Q
P	H	H	U	A	D	U	O	B	L	E	B	R	Y	J
E	I	E	Y	Z	V	S	E	H	N	M	A	G	I	D
D	P	R	O	N	Y	E	T	V	A	E	G	H	L	Q
G	B	O	R	N	H	E	E	A	S	T	R	I	B	T
T	P	B	K	F	B	G	A	V	E	R	H	W	C	E
P	M	W	I	C	I	N	E	J	Y	C	S	T	A	R
M	M	B	Q	D	D	L	V	M	V	T	X	L	X	Y

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

The Rev Peter S Blake MTh, 16 Monaville Drive, Lisburn BT28 2DR
Tel: 07591 373405 E-mail: rev.peterblake@gmail.com

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

Vicar's Churchwarden: Brian Ford **People's Churchwarden:** Irene McKinlay

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

Select Vestry: Jacqueline Adams, Sylvia Barton, Colin Brooks, Cynthia Cherry, John Howard, William Hurst, Audrey McClements, Brian Neill, Wendy Smyth, Claire Thompson, Sheila Thompson, John Wallace

Hon Treasurer: Mrs Cynthia Cherry 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 (2nd Sunday)
Holy Communion
(4th Sunday)

FAMILY SERVICE:

11.00 am 3rd Sunday
of each month



MIDWEEK SERVICE:

11.00 am Wednesday Holy Communion
in the Parish Centre

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).