

CHRISTMAS 2018

# SAINTS *Alive!*

[antrim.comnor.anglican.org](http://antrim.comnor.anglican.org)

THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM

## MAY OUR HEARTS BE TOUCHED BY THE PEACE OF THE CHILD JESUS

When the great biblical scholar Monsignor Ronald Knox was only four years old he was asked by one of his parents what he did when he couldn't sleep at night. He is said to have replied: 'I lie awake and think about the past' - an unusual answer for a child.

Over the past twelve months we on this island have been invited to think a great deal about the past - or more precisely the past of 100 years ago - a time of revolution and war. It was a time of unprecedented violence in Ireland and in the world and we have every reason to be thankful that we now no longer resort to violence to settle our differences.

However it is not so very different today in other places. Although there is no world war there are wars all over the world, and empires continue to be built and to collapse in violence. It is not even all that different from 2000 years ago when the child Jesus came into the world in the stable of Bethlehem. Jesus was born into a violent world, into an Empire founded on violence; and almost immediately that violence threatened him, in the form of King Herod, the servant of the Roman Empire. In the words of the Christmas carol: 'So he gave the word to slay, and slew the little childer...'

As then in Bethlehem, so now in Aleppo, Mosul, Cairo... the emperors of the modern world use their servants and the little children are slain. Sometimes, in the face of such darkness, we may wonder how the world holds together at all. For Christians the answer lies with the child in the manger, the Son sent by his Father to be a light that can never be overcome by darkness and to bring into the world a depth of love so great that it can never be overcome by any hatred or violence.

That light and love of the Son abides in the hearts of all of those born by water and the Spirit. Knowing this, we can never lose hope. Nor should we cease to support in prayer and in action all who are suffering the consequences of the

violence of this world. May the Christmas season renew within us all the gifts of hope, charity and peace. May we not lie awake thinking about the past, fearful about the present or apprehensive about the future.

Instead may our hearts be touched by the peace of the child Jesus, whose hand closes round Mary's finger and with irresistible tenderness pulls down her love on him. May the tenderness of that love surround you and yours this Christmas.

*The Rt Rev John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher*





# CONFIRMATION

On Sunday 4 November, the former Archbishop of Armagh and Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Alan Harper confirmed seven of our young adults. In the absence of Bishop Alan Abernethy, who is off ill at the moment, it was good to welcome back Archbishop Harper to Antrim after 12 years. He last conducted a confirmation service on November 2006.

Olivia Taggart, Ceri Davies, Jenna Davies, Ellie McNeill, Hanna McCaig, Thomas McGrath, Corey Collins. We wish our young adult many blessings and pray that their faith continues to go from strength to strength.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO RONNIE NICHOLL MBE

Tuesday 13 November was a momentous day for Ronnie Nicholl who attended Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE which was awarded to him for his service to the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. The day was even more special as it was the Queen who was making the presentations on that day. Ronnie joined the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade as a local volunteer retained fireman in 1963 at the age of 18. He also worked for the Aviation Fire Service at Aldergrove, now Belfast International Airport, for over 34 years. In all Ronnie is now into his 55<sup>th</sup> year of service. He was accompanied to palace by his daughters Catherine and Laura and took with him the best wishes of his other two daughters Helena and Linzi who were unable to join their dad.



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



## CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Sunday 16 December 2018

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

6.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

### Christmas Eve - Monday 24 December 2018

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

### Christmas Day - Tuesday 25 December 2018

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service & Holy Communion

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

There will be no service of Evening Prayer on **Sunday 6 January**.

## FUNDAY CLUB HOLIDAYS

There will be no Funday Club on **23 and 30 December**. Club will resume on **6 January 2019**. Prize giving will be at the Family Service on **Sunday 20 January**.

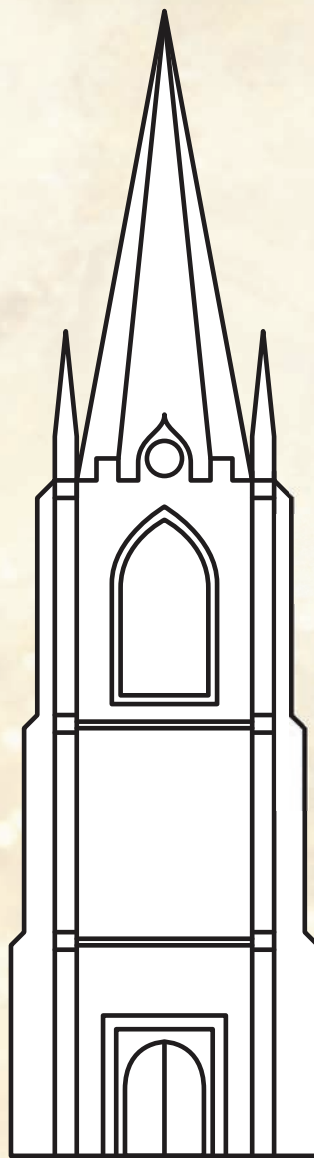
## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Our **Hospice Coffee Morning** raised **£615.00** - 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 **£1348.00**.

## FREEWILL OFFERINGS

The Hon Treasurer wishes to close the books for the year ending December 2018 on Sunday 30 December. Freewill Offering Envelopes for 2018 received after this will be recorded in your total for 2019.

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



# ALL SAINTS 200

The heartbeat of any parish is the worshipping strength of its congregation at its main service. Since the beginning of September, our average attendance at the 11.30am service over the twelve weeks has been 143. The highest figure was 198 when we had four baptisms and the lowest figure was 90. Our attendance at our 8.30am Holy Communion averages 17 and our evening service, not taking into account baptism Sundays is on average 28.

On the twelve Sundays since September, totalling the parishioners at 8.30am Holy Communion, 11.30am Morning Prayer and 6.30pm Evening Prayer, we only broke a total congregation of 200 on four occasions. For a parish that has over 500 families claiming membership, it should be relatively easy to achieve a total congregation of 200 every Sunday.

It would only take another 13 people coming along every week to break the 200 barrier.

**Could you be one of those 13 who could help increase our worshipping average?**



# THE REV DR KEITH AND LYN SCOTT

Over the past number of years we have been supporting the work of the Rev Dr Keith Scott and his wife Lyn as they work in St John's Theological College, in Kitwe in northern Zambia. Keith and Lyn are working with the Church Missionary Society, Ireland and are on their second placement in Zambia. Through the generosity of our parishioners, we have pledged to give CMSI £6,000 per year to help support the work of Keith and Lyn. Our Smartie Tube appeal, which raises well over £1,000 per year also helps the funding as well. We have had several visits from Keith and Lyn as well as three visits from Archbishop Albert Chama. In return Stephen and Helen visited Zambia in 2014 and Stephen and David Ferguson visited the college and parishes in the diocese of Northern Zambia in 2008. From these visits and two gift appeals, we have helped several parishes with gifts of £1,000 per parish to fund the building of a toilet block, to supply musical instruments, computers and helped to complete the building of a rectory.

Keith and Lyn visited us on Sunday 18 November and spoke at our Family Service in the parish centre and in a power point presentation - What are we doing at St John's, Kitwee, Zambia? explained that their work in Zambia fell into three areas:

- Helping to train and form a committed professional leadership.
- Helping to put together programmes of education and development.
- Helping to identify people who will step into their shoes at the end their placement

Keith and Lyn's main priority is help develop a new generation of clergy and leaders who will be equipped to teach and train future generations of clergy and laity. Keith thanked us for our generosity over so many years and asked that we continue to pray for:

- Dr Keith and Lyn Scott and for Adam and Hannah
- Archbishop Albert Chama
- The Students at St John's
- Francis Mwansa, Rector of the College
- All members of Staff, part-time and full-time





# BEETLE DRIVE & PUDDING EVENT

Our Beetle Drive and Pudding night was held in the Parish Centre on Friday 30 November. It was attended by almost 100 parishioners of all ages and it proved to be a great way of mixing everyone in a fun activity which everyone could enjoy. The Beetle Drive was won by the Vicar. Some sore losers accused him of having God on his side! The evening began with the sale of Christmas crafts which have been created by our Holy Knitters group who meets every Monday evening. So far the total raised has exceeded £300. Over the past few weeks Sheilah Stinson has organised the sale of paintings donated by the late Betty Holmes and it has raised the marvellous total of £450. The evening's entertainment concluded with a feast of delicious puddings.





# PARISH REGISTERS

## HOLY BAPTISM

BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

30 September 2018	Oscar Eric John	son of Kirsty Law & Andrew Wilson
	Jonah Gary	son of Natasha & Gary Brown
14 October 2018	Matthew Robin	son of Nadine Orr & Christopher McLaughlin
	Bradley Gregory John	son of Kirsty & Gregory Weir
13 November 2018	Leo Robert John	son of Joann Atkinson & William Balmer
	Zac Trevor	son of Lyndsey & Stephen Brown
2 December 2018	Jax Robert Richard	son of Kristi Galloway & Andrew McClay
	Ryan Hamish McBrien	son of Lisa McBrien & Ryan Hempsey

## HOLY MATRIMONY

WE CONGRATULATE

27 August	Kenneth French & Kirstie Myles
27 October	Peter McNeill & Alex Boyd

## CHRISTIAN BURIAL / CREMATION

WE SYMPATHISE WITH THOSE WHO MOURN FOR

24 October	Walter Flaherty
7 September	Alice Nicholl
26 October	Joe Bingham
27 November	Marnie Higgins
29 November	Irene Smyth
3 December	Samuel Tosh



## AIR AMBULANCE NORTHERN IRELAND

At the Evergreens meeting in October Grace Williams from Air Ambulance Northern Ireland gave a presentation on this marvellous new branch of the emergency services. It costs £2 million per year to sustain the service. We were given a breakdown of some of the costs such as a flight helmet costs, £2171, a flight suit £468 and a daily cost of almost £5,500 to maintain the service. The members of the Evergreens group raised over £300 and Grace was delighted with the generosity of the members.



## NEXT STEPS

At one of the Sunday sessions of Next Steps the members were asked to give their thoughts on being members of All Saints. Their comments make for very encouraging reading.

### What do you like about All Saints?

- you can make new friends
- everyone is friendly and accepting
- there is a great feeling of community
- people don't judge you and listen to what you have to say
- everyone at this parish is unbelievably welcoming and kind
- if you have a problem, there are people you can talk to for support



### Why am I glad to be part of this church?

- because it is a good church and I can learn more about God
- it makes me feel complete and happy in my day to day life
- it is my place of spiritual rest
- it is not a dressing up competition
- it is non-judgemental and not strict

If you are in year 8 and above, why not come along on Sunday evenings in the parish centre from 7.30pm – 9.00pm

## FUNDAY CLUB



Over the past few years, we have organised holiday bible clubs in the summer months and the format of games, refreshments, craft activities, action songs and teaching has proved to be very popular with our younger members. Since June, our Sunday Funday Club is now being organised in the same way as the holiday bible club and the informal activities are proving to be very successful.





# I HEARD THE BELLS

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was filled with sorrow at the tragic death of his wife in a fire in 1861. The Civil War broke out that same year, and it seemed this was an additional punishment. Two years later, Longfellow was again saddened to hear that his own son had been seriously wounded as a lieutenant in the Army of the Potomac.

Sitting down to his desk, on Christmas Day, he heard the church bells ringing, and ringing. It was in this setting he wrote:

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
their old familiar carols play  
and wild and sweet the words repeat  
of peace on earth, good will to men.*



*And in despair I bowed my head  
there is no peace on earth I said  
for hate is strong and mocks the song  
of peace on earth, good will to men.*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,  
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep.  
the wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
with peace on earth, good will to men.*

At this Christmas time whether you are in sorrow or in joy you can know that God is not dead, nor doth he sleep. He knows your every need and longs to comfort you and be that special friend you need. Set aside some time to seek him this year instead of the all the outward manifestations of the season. He will give life real meaning and your heart real peace, the peace that passes all understanding.

## 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: aaronmcalistar@btinternet.com

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

**Vicar's Churchwarden:** John Howard **People's Churchwarden:** Colin Brooks

**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, Wendy Smyth, Claire Thompson, John Wallace

<b>Hon Treasurer:</b>	Mrs Cynthia Cherry	Tel: 07703 547 647
<b>Parish Recorder:</b>	Mr Brian Neill, 13 Vicarage Gardens, Antrim	Tel: (028) 9446 3708
<b>Caretaker:</b>	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
----------	-----------------------------



### 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).
----------	---