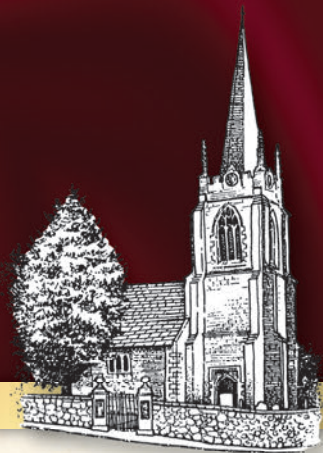


AUTUMN 2020 EDITION

SAINTS *Alive!*

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THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM



WELCOME BACK FOR IN-CHURCH WORSHIP!

Dear Parishioners

Since mid-March when we began living with the restrictions of Covid-19, life has been very uncertain for everyone. First and foremost, we have had to deal with the very real fear of what this virus can do and many of us have been very frightened. These are uncharted waters for us all and we have become used to dealing with protocols and guidelines which can change on a weekly and sometimes daily basis.

Throughout this period of restriction, thankfully we have been able to come together each morning, Monday to Friday at 9.00am and on Sundays to worship together via our on-line services. We are the only parish in the Church of Ireland which has such an advanced system in place. Although the clergy have been leading the services in church without parishioners being physically present, we have been aware of those joining us on-line and together we have been uplifted and encouraged in our daily worship.

We are delighted... that from 6 September, we will be in a position to re-open All Saints' for services of worship but with certain restrictions. Due to the 2-meter social distance requirements, we are only able to accommodate 50 worshippers at a service. With over 200 people who are regular worshippers, giving everyone an opportunity to come to church has raised a few logistical issues. In order to accommodate everyone who feels ready to come back to church we will be having three identical services, on Sundays at 10.00am and 12.00 noon and on Wednesday mornings at 11.00am. Hopefully we have made contact with all our regular worshippers and offered you the choice of service that suits you. If you have not been contacted, but would wish to return, please contact the Vicar on 028 9446 2186 and we will be glad to have you back with us.

We have had a rehearsal to try out all the above requirements with over 40 volunteer congregation



members present. First of all it was great to witness the buzz of expectation about being back in church, and although we were all wearing masks, it was easy to identify all our friends. Although the list of guidelines may seem a little daunting, it is for our safety and well-being and coming in and going out at the rehearsal was achieved without any hitches.

For those at home... we are also aware that many of our parishioners are not yet ready to return to church in All Saints' due to Covid-19 restrictions and this is very understandable. Those who continue to worship with us at home are still a very valued and important part of our worshipping community.

GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING

We have had to introduce some new procedures so that meeting together complies with the necessary government and church guidelines. Here is some information on what you will experience on returning to All Saints.

- In order to protect one another **please do not attend church** if you or a member of your household are still experiencing or not yet recovered from symptoms of Covid-19 or if you are in an at-risk group
- **Please only attend the service you have agreed with the clergy**
- Following further recent consultations with public health authorities, we join with Christian church leaders all over this island in formally recommending and encouraging the use of face coverings at all services of worship (4 church leaders) - **please bring your own mask**
- When you arrive, there will be cones spaced at 2m on the path to the porch, please observe social distance at all times until you are seated
- In the porch one of the welcome team will invite you to sanitise your hands
- You will be able to leave your Free Will Offering envelopes on a plate in the porch or at the back of the church
- You will be directed to the Churchwardens' area where your name will be recorded for contact tracing requirements, a steward will then direct you to a seat
- As the pews will be filled up from the front of the church to the back using alternate pews, it may not be possible to sit in your normal pew as we will allocate seats on a first-come-first seated basis. Households do not need to social distance and are able to sit together
- Tissues will be available if needed but please try to remember to bring your own
- The vestry toilet facility will be available but should only be used in an emergency
- At the end of the service, the church will empty from the back pews to the front and your exit will be guided by the steward
- Please avoid touching surfaces apart from where you are sitting

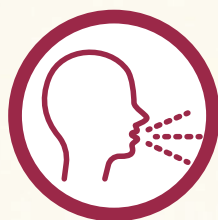
If you experience symptoms of Covid-19 during a service you should inform a church warden or one of the stewards immediately



Temperature above 37.8°C



Sore throat



Persistent dry cough



Shortness of breath



Muscle aches and fatigue



Loss of smell or taste

PARISH FINANCES

We are very grateful for your continued financial support in these uncertain times. A number of parishioners, who do not subscribe by Standing Order, have enquired as to how to make their Free Will Offering (FWO) and Fabric Fund (FF) offerings in the current circumstances. If you wish to do this, one way you can do it is by e-banking.

The Bank Account name is: **Antrim Parish Church**
The Sort Code is: **98 01 80**
The Account Number is: **01052013**

In the reference section, please include your FWO envelope number and Surname for example **FWO945Glover** or **FF945Glover** for Fabric Fund.

Or, you can post, or deliver in person your donation to Cynthia Cherry, Brian Neill or the Vicar. Or if you wish, please contact the Vicar and he will arrange to have your subscriptions collected. For health and safety reasons, we would be grateful if you could avoid putting coins in the envelopes.

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY (OLM): WHAT IS IT?

Claire Thompson is a well known parishioner to many of us. On a Sunday Claire sings in the choir, on a Tuesday evening Claire is our Cub Scout leader. She is also a member of the Mothers' Union and a member of the Select Vestry. Over the past while Claire has been discerning a call to the ordained ministry and in particular the Ordained Local Ministry and in this article she will outline what is involved. We are delighted that Claire has responded to God's call to this ministry and that the calling has been recognised by the Church. We wish her every blessing over the next while as she completes the various units and look forward to her ministry among us over the coming years.

Stephen McBride

OLM is a recognised, ordained ministry. OLM deacons and priests are no different to deacons and priests that have undergone full time or part time ministerial training. They just have different roles. It is a local ministry where the priest is licensed by the Bishop to minister in certain parishes or groups of parishes (in my case All Saints'). It is a supervised, self-funding ministry where the OLM works as part of a team of clergy and lay people to help make their parish one that serves the needs of their parishioners and the local community.

Training consists of a 3 year set of Open Learning Courses in Theology and Reflective Practice developed by Queens University, the Church of Ireland and the Methodist church. There are 12 courses in total that need to be completed. Each course will consist of 8-10, 1.5-2 hour weekly lectures, approximately eighty hours reading and course work assessments. Alongside these courses I am expected to keep up a personal spiritual life whilst being supported, guided and being taught the practical skills I will need by Archdeacon Stephen and Rev Peter. After 2 years, and when 8 courses are completed, the candidates are ordained Deacons, and after a further year and on completion of all 12 courses they will be ordained Priests.

I love All Saints' and am deeply committed to the Parish. All Saints' and my faith are in essence who I am.



I feel that I have been called to ordained ministry and OLM is the perfect opportunity to serve and give back to the church community that has given me so much. I look forward to getting to know all the

parishioners better (not just as faces seen from the choir pews), serving in a pastoral role to all age groups and leading services. I especially look forward to take part in the Eucharist and the Wholeness and Healing services.

My current 'day job' is a Chief Cardiac Clinical Physiologist specialising in Echocardiography. Trust me this sound grander than it really is! In essence I perform and report ultrasound scans of hearts and train other physiologists and doctors. I entered this profession 32 years ago after my GCSEs starting in the Waveney Hospital in Ballymena. A few BTecs, a degree and four professional exams later I am one of the senior (or as one of the consultants politely says "more experienced") members of the Cardiac Investigations Dept. in Antrim Area Hospital.



I have many hobbies but my main passion (after my husband Mark, sons Corey and Kai) is singing! I have been a member of All Saints' Parish senior choir for the last 21 years. I also sing in 2 ladies choirs, Una Voce and Lagan Camarata and 2 mixed choirs Lagan Mixed Voice, and Antrim Choral Society of which I am the current Chairperson. I also participate in Shine Out, -a community choir and orchestra of varying age and denominations. We perform concerts of all types of Christian music for various charities. Please keep me in your prayers as begin my studies.



BISHOP OF CONNOR

Connor's new bishop, the Ven George Davison, will be consecrated at a service in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, on Thursday September 3. Archdeacon Davison was elected to the vacant office on 17 February 2020, and it has been very unfortunate that the restrictions around assembly and movement have prevented a service of this kind from taking place sooner. Bishop-elect Davison said: "The members of the Electoral College for the Diocese of Connor have done me a great honour in electing me to serve as the next bishop of the diocese. I am very conscious of the great responsibility that is being entrusted to me. I am immensely thankful for the gifted colleagues who serve the Church in Connor Diocese and look forward to serving with them as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in the years ahead." We look forward to welcoming Bishop George to All Saints' on 25 October at our Mothers' Union Diocesan Service.

ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH

We congratulate The Most Rev John McDowell, who was Curate-Assistant in All Saints' from 1996-1999, on his appointment as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. He shared these thoughts on the occasion of his translation to the primacy:

Gratitude to God for calling me to ordained ministry and for the knowledge that his love and forgiveness are always moving ahead of me. Gratitude to my fellow bishops for their encouragement and support. Thankfulness to the hundreds of people from every corner of Ireland who have written, emailed, messaged or in some other way communicated their congratulations, good wishes and the assurance of their prayers. Since the day of my election on 11 March I have felt buoyed up by wave upon wave of goodwill – a silver surfer. I am hoping people will hold onto that goodwill even as I make my first mistakes.



We look forward to welcoming the Primate to All Saints' in November 2021 when we will celebrate the 425th anniversary of the consecration of our church.

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