

AUTUMN 2021

SAINTS *Alive!*

antrim.connor.anglican.org

THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM

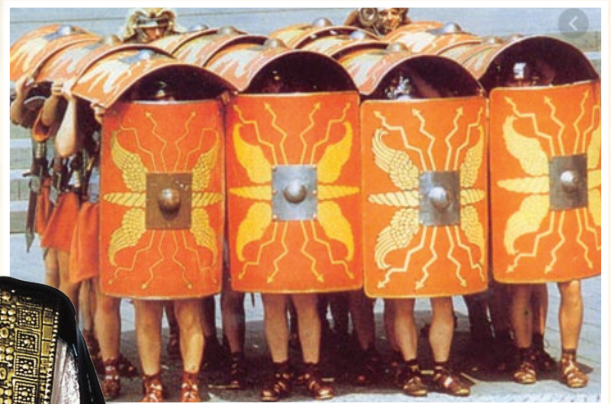
BE MORE LIKE A ROMAN SOLDIER

St Paul, in his well-known passage in Ephesians 6 uses the image of a Roman soldier kitted out for battle as an example of how we should be ready for action as followers of Jesus. The Roman army had conquered the known civilised world around the time of Jesus and soldiers would have been seen in every town and city in the empire.

They were fearsome warriors who knew how to attack and defend in the time of war. Soldiers do a great deal of training to be ready for the heat of battle carrying out lots of drills and manoeuvres to ensure that when they need to, they know exactly what to do to fight for one another and to avoid getting killed.

As Christians, St Paul encourages us to be like a soldier, but instead of being adept with the use of a sword or a bow and arrow, our spiritual soldiering skills which give us strength and the means of defence in a time of attack are developed through a knowledge of the scriptures, regular times of worship together and individual times of prayer.

There are many aids to help us study the scriptures more effectively and these can be discovered on line. UCB's Word for Today www.ucb.co.uk and Holy Trinity Brompton's Bible in a year found at www.bible.com



as well as study guides such as New Daylight are excellent ways of developing our knowledge of the scriptures which in turn strengthens our faith.

Roman soldiers made a clever use of their shields to protect them from the arrows and spears of their enemies. We get our strength as members of All Saints from the times when we meet together to worship God our Father and to catch up with our friends.

As we begin a new season of activities and as restrictions begin to relax, it would be great to see more of us back together at our services of 10.00am and 12 noon on a Sunday or 11.00am on a Wednesday.

If you still feel unsure or uncomfortable about coming back to church, you can follow us online at:

antrim.connor.anglican.org

DATES FOR STARTING BACK

Family Funday Worship will resume on **Sunday 12 Sept** at 11.00am in the parish centre.

Next Steps will begin with fun and pizza on **Sunday 12 Sept** at 7.00pm in the parish centre

Evergreens - we hope to have our first meeting of Evergreens on **Tuesday 12 October** in the Parish Centre. In order to accommodate all the members, we will have two sessions, one at 9.30am and one at 11.30am. Each session will last for 90 minutes and give members an opportunity to catch up with one another, have tea/coffee and we will provide some games, quizzes and entertainment. Members will be contacted before 12 October and we will try our best to slot you into the session which best works for your timetable.

Mothers' Union have their first meeting of the season on Thursday 9 September at 8.00pm in the Parish Centre. The evening will have a very strong Royal theme - Sheila Thompson will give a talk on her visit to Buckingham Palace and Paddy Wallace will have her Royal Maundy money!

ALL SAINTS
ANTRIM

FUNDAY CLUB

More Fun, Faith and Fellowship
SEPTEMBER 12TH @ 11 AM
THE PARISH CENTRE

Juice and Biscuits
Coffee for grown-ups
Singing
Activities



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

NEXT
STEPS

IN THE PARISH
CENTRE

SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER
7PM

FUN
FAITH
FOOD
FRIENDSHIP



ALL SAINTS 425 NOT OUT

On Sunday 7 November, The Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Rev John McDowell will join us for a festival celebration at 10.00am and a dedication of gifts at the 12.00 noon services. At the 12.00noon service we will be joined by Alison Rooke, daughter of the Canon Leslie and Mrs Margaret Forsythe. Alison's husband is the Bishop of Tuam, the Rt Rev Patrick Rooke and he will dedicate a credence table specially commissioned in memory of the Forsythes. As curate of All Saints, Archbishop McDowell was with us in 1996 when we celebrated the 400th anniversary of the founding of All Saints and it is fitting that he help lead our celebrations in 2021.

On the evening of 7 November, the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison will join us to confirm upwards of twenty of our young adults. As we have so many candidates for confirmation, this service will only be for the candidates and their families. We would encourage you to join us on line as we celebrate this important milestone in the life of our parishioners.

NEXT STEPS

The members of Next Steps have met twice over the summer months for some energetic activities. The first was at Escaramouche Action Park in Randalstown. In spite of the heavy rain, the teenagers thoroughly enjoyed a variety of teambuilding exercises before several action packed Laser Tag games of commando style shoot outs. Everyone was armed with an electronic body pack which registered the laser hits and a rapid fire automatic rifle. Peter and Stephen were on opposing teams and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to blow each others brains out and still be friends.

We then visited the Splash NI water park at Moneymore. Unfortunately there are no incriminating photos of Vicar and Curate in their Speedos at the time of printing.



5th ANTRIM SCOUTS TEN YEARS ON



The Rev Adrian Halligan, who was our Curate in 2011, was a very experienced Scout and along with one of our parishioners, Fiona Simpson, who also had extensive Scouting experience, the idea of starting up a Scout Troop in All Saints was grown and developed. Although my previous experience of a youth organisation had been in the Boys' Brigade, I was aware of the importance belonging to such an organisation was in the formation of a young person's life, helping them to develop a whole range of life skills.

Our Scout Group has come such a long way from our initial promising beginnings in September 2011 where on the first night we had nine boys and three leaders and by the end of the session in June 2012, we had over 25 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and 10 leaders. Since then we have grown and grown and on most Tuesday

evenings, there are upwards of fifty boys and girls from 6-16 enjoying themselves in a variety of activities and gaining an armful of attractive badges for their hard work. Such is the popularity of our Troop that we regularly have a waiting list to join our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

To mark our tenth anniversary, we had a Summer Jam at Breckenhill Activity Centre in Doagh where over 30 of our Troup attended taking part in activities such as Splatmaster, archery, bush craft cooking, raft building and the Drumdarragh Challenge. After almost two weeks of solid rainfall, we thoroughly enjoyed the late summer sunshine. The camp activities concluded with a celebratory cake. Unfortunately our Group Scout Leader, Kristy Robinson, who had planned the event with Fiona Simpson received a positive



Covid-19 test and was unable to join us, but did enjoy some of the cake.

It has been a great ten years and as we look to the next ten years, we really need to recruit some new leaders. Would you be able to give a couple of hours on a Tuesday evening – hopefully the answer is yes. We can guarantee that you will enjoy being a member of 5th Antrim Scouts.



SAFEGUARDING TRUST

The Church of Ireland safeguarding policies and procedure applies to all clergy, staff and volunteers but especially those who have regular contact with children or adults who may be more at risk of harm or abuse because of their personal or life circumstances.

If you have any concerns regarding issue of child protection of safety, the parish panel members are:



Dr Brian Ford
028 9446 2378



Hazel Dalton
028 9446 4796



**Ven Dr
Stephen McBride**
028 9446 2186

If you are worried about the safety or welfare of a child, it is important that you report it. Even if you're not sure, it's always best to tell professionals about your concerns. Social Services and the Police can investigate concerns about a child's safety and can be contacted via the Northern HSC Trust's Gateway on 0300 1234 333.

Further details about our policies can be found at safeguarding.ireland.anglican.org

MAKE CRITICISM WORK FOR YOU

'Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.'

Proverbs 12:1 NKJV

There are two kinds of criticism:

1. **Unfair criticism.** There'll always be people who love to rain on your parade; people who try to build themselves up by tearing others down. Mark Twain said, 'Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.'

2. **Constructive criticism.** Solomon said, 'Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is the rebuke of a wise judge to a listening ear' (*Proverbs 25:12 NIV*). There's a major obstacle you must overcome in order to reach your highest potential. What is it? Our natural reluctance to discover anything unflattering about ourselves. When you erect defences against your inadequacies and try to hide your faults, you close the door to a vital source of self-knowledge. And in so doing, you deny yourself the joy of growing.

Every one of us can improve what we're doing or the way we're doing it. In fact, if you're still celebrating what you did last year – you're not making enough progress this year. After winning his third world championship, instead of having a big celebration, bull rider Tuff Hedeman moved on to Denver to start a new season – the whole process over again. His line of reasoning was: 'The bull in Denver won't be impressed with what I did last week.' Whether you're an untested rookie or a veteran, if you want to be a champion tomorrow, you must be teachable today. Or as Solomon puts it: 'Whoever learns from correction is wise' (*Proverbs 15:5 NLT*).

<https://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today>

WHO'S WHO

Vicar: The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride

Tel: (028) 9446 2186 E-mail: archdeacon@connor.anglican.org

Curate: The Rev Peter S Blake MTh

Tel: 07591 373405 E-mail: rev.peterblake@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Audrey McClements

Tel: (028) 9446 0042 E-mail: all.saints2@btconnect.com

Parish Recorder: Mr Brian Neill
Sexton & Caretaker: Mr Cecil Barton

Tel: (028) 9446 3708
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