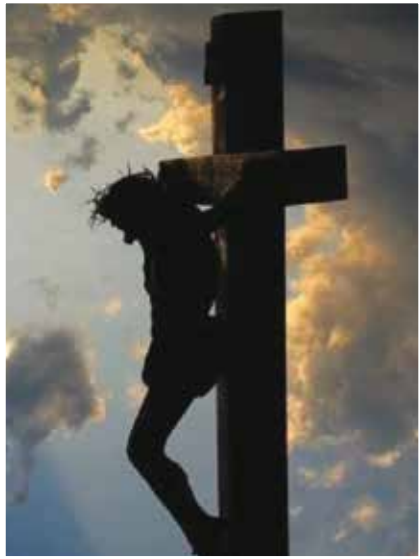


SPRING 2021

SAINTS *Alive!*

antrim.connor.anglican.org

THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM



EASTER JOY *versus* GOOD FRIDAY PAIN

It would be good if we could bypass the sorrow and destruction Jesus endured on Good Friday and fast-forward to Easter. However, we can't have the joy of Easter without enduring the pain of Good Friday. Although we may want to skip to the gold medal victory lap of Easter, we have to be reminded of the cost of our salvation. We cannot share in Christ's joy without recognising the pain of his crucifixion. Resurrection can only come about following death. Christianity has never ignored the cost of suffering, rather it helps us find meaning in a meaningless situation. Lent calls us to take up our cross and follow Christ. St Paul expressed the wish to experience the fellowship of Christ's suffering.

When the job is lost, or the tumour is malignant or the relationship is betrayed, we grieve not only for the wounds such situations inflict on us, but also the fact that we have been wounded. Sometimes it is through our brokenness that we are given a chance of new life, of growing into what God wants us to be. From what might seem like the terrible ending of Good Friday came the joy of Easter, a wonderful new beginning.

In Biblical times when you wanted a fine piece of furniture made you picked someone with a reputation for excellence - a master carpenter or a finish carpenter. These carpenters had an interesting custom. When a carpenter completed a job, he took off his apron, folded it up and set it on his finished work, signifying the job was complete. With that picture in mind, read this. 'Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved... Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb.

They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus's head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first went in, and he saw and believed - for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.'

Note the words 'the cloth that had covered Jesus's head was folded up.' The master carpenter had finished the job. Our salvation was complete. You don't have to work to be saved, you only have to put your trust in Christ, your sins are forgiven and your place in heaven assured. May we know the joy of his resurrection in this Easter season.



*Adapted from UCB Word for today for Good Friday and Easter Day 2021.
For daily devotional articles see www.ucb.co.uk*



WHAT'S ON HOLY WEEK SERVICES

At the time of going to print we are hoping that services in Church will be allowed from Good Friday, following the protocols we had in operation before Christmas.

We plan to have our Good Friday evening
Tenebrae Service at 7.30pm on 2 April.

Easter Day

Holy Communion at 10.00am and 12.00noon

Wednesday 14 April

Holy Communion at 10.00am

To avoid disappointment, please come to the service you had previously been attending before lockdown.

During Holy Week we will be posting online a short service every day on YouTube and Facebook.

We will also have some services from churches and clergy our Diocese to link into and will advertise these when we have all the details.



UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR EASTER VESTRIES

from the Bishop of Connor

At the Diocesan Council meeting on 25th February 2021, a discussion took place on the holding of Easter Vestries within the constitutional time frame. The Diocesan Council voted on the decision, with the overwhelming support and have decided that, at this time, Easter Vestry meetings should not be held by electronic means. The meeting should be in person when government guidance will allow this.

FREE WILL OFFERING

We are so grateful to the number of parishioners who have made use of the online banking facility. Here are the details if you wish to continue to make use of this facility.

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 write 'FWO' for Free Will Offering, your envelope number and surname. For example FWO123Smith. Use 'FF' for Fabric Fund, e.g. FF123Smith.

If you are unable to pay online you could use these details and make a lodgement at the Bank. Failing all of this you can leave your envelopes through the letterbox at the vicarage or if you give the vicar a call on 028 9446 2186 and he can collect them.

CMSI LINK MISSIONARIES

Our link missionaries with CMSI, the Rev Dr Keith and Lyn Scott's time in Zambia has come to a conclusion and they have moved back to Ireland. We had hoped to welcome them to All Saints in February, but due to the restrictions, this will not be until some time later in 2021. Living and working overseas can be challenging and Keith and Lyn have experienced their fair share of ups and downs. Who can forget the Lord's miraculous protection over them when they walked out of a serious road traffic accident in 2018, physically uninjured? Surely He is faithful!

Often the legacy of a person's work is never fully realised until after they leave a place. We can say wholeheartedly that, over the past four years, Keith and Lyn have worked

tirelessly to invest in the lives of some of the future leaders of the Church in Zambia. Their legacy will be seen in the future roles their students take up in the life of the church.

The Scotts would value our continued support and encouragement as they and CMSI seek God's guidance for their next steps. Please pray for Keith and Lyn as they readjust to being back in Ireland. Pray that they will develop a sense of normality and have people around them who can be supportive as they build a home here. Pray for St John's Seminary in Kitwe as they adjust to operating without the Scotts' input. Pray for the nation of Zambia, which is on the brink of bankruptcy as it defaulted on its foreign debt payment of more than £30m to the IMF last month.



God can and will use what the Scotts have learned and accomplished for His kingdom through serving in Zambia and they thank you for walking with them on the journey. We look forward to seeing them and hearing from them later in 2021.



cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON DURING LOCKDOWN

ONLINE WORSHIP

In these days our online worship has become a very important part of the life of the church. Here are a few interesting statistics to let you know how effective our timely investment in our facilities has proven to be:



DAILY SERVICE

80
HOUSEHOLDS
watch live
at 9.00am

SUNDAY SERVICES

130 HOUSEHOLDS watch services live
180 HOUSEHOLDS watch later throughout day

 You can connect on the All Saints Facebook page or on antrim.connor.anglican.org and click on the Church webcam.

FUNDAY CLUB

The current lockdown meant an end to being able to meet in the hall but thankfully Holy Harry stepped in with his able assistants to produce a weekly video including a short talk, some pumpin' tunes and a prayer time. It gets released every Sunday morning at 11am on Youtube and Facebook. Rumour has it that quite a few adults enjoy it too....



STUDY GROUP

One of the main duties of a bishop is to teach his flock and during Lent we have been watching our Bishop, the Rt Rev George Davison as he has spoken on the theme Faith in the Tough Times. Week by week the Bishop has looked at various aspects of how our faith sustains us. Bishop George said: "The challenges of the past year have brought disruption to the way in which we relate to one another in our parishes. In this series of midweek talks for Lent, I hope to explore some of the ways that our faith in Christ not only sustains us through the difficult days, but challenges us to grow in Christian love and service to one another and the communities where God has placed us." The parish study group has thoroughly enjoyed our Wednesday evenings together.

WORD FOR TODAY

Word for Today is a daily devotional magazine that has a thought for the day and a reading the Bible in one year reading plan. We thought that it would be good to share our own thoughts and reflections on the readings together so we set up a WhatsApp reading group.



It doesn't matter whether you can't wait to share your thoughts about the bible readings or just like to read what others have written, Everyone is welcome. Just get in touch with the clergy and we will get you added to the group. The UCB Word for Today's daily devotional is available at www.ucb.co.uk

5th ANTRIM SCOUTS

Face to face meetings have not been possible for the last year and with our young members enduring on-line every day as part of their home schooling, the notion of yet another Zoom session is perhaps not the most appealing way to spend an evening. However, all sections of the Scouts began to meet once again via zoom and Eamon Gillen from Antrim Boxing Club took us through some energetic boxercise sessions. This is helping us stay connected and we look forward to getting back together, perhaps before the summer and enjoying some outdoor fun together.

MOTHERS' UNION

It is very encouraging to see how the members of our branch having been using their skills to knit a variety of items such as for the neo-natal unit in Antrim hospital. In my role as chaplain in the hospital I was called to minister to a family where the mum had very sadly had twins who were still born. It was a dreadful day for that family, but they were greatly comforted to be able to take their children home dressed in carefully and lovingly knitted bonnets and cardigans and placed in a basket. The MU members have also been making up emergency wash bags which are given to people how are admitted to hospital, have to stay overnight and have left home without the bare essentials. Receiving a bag containing a face cloth, soap, deodorant, tissues, tooth brush and tooth paste is a real God-send.





CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10 - 16 MAY 2021

The response to last year's Christian Aid Week was surprising and humbling. Against the backdrop of all the restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic, over £260,000 in Northern Ireland was raised to help people living in poverty. This year the focus returns to the climate crisis and we are hoping to support our global neighbours in Kenya who continue to battle the effects of extreme weather which leads to chaos. From severe drought to flooding from rains that can be too heavy, trying to plant and raise crops is almost impossible.

As this virus spreads across the world, the pandemic has made the lack of reliable water sources even more critical as handwashing with soap and water is vital to stay safe against the virus. Through our generosity we can reach out to our neighbours both near and far helping to stem the tide of the virus and enabling them to plan for the future. Through our contributions we can help communities withstand climate chaos: from building better earth dams to harvest more water, to sowing drought tolerant crops to demanding climate justice the highest level.

We will be placing envelopes in church in the run-up to Christian Aid week or if you are unable to attend you can go to caweek.ie and make a donation on line. Together we STOP this climate crisis.



HOPE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

It has been hard to feel hopeful at times during the pandemic, but, thankfully, Christian hope is not the same as optimism, it is much, much more than that. It is very difficult to be optimistic all the time and Christian hope is not the same as incessant cheerfulness. The only real hope we know we can rely on is hope in a God who has defeated death.

Optimism cannot deal with death, but God has dealt with it. For that reason, we have hope. We have hope because we worship a God who in Jesus has experienced suffering and death and was raised again to life. We worship a God who knows what it is to suffer, even to suffer death itself, but who through that suffering, has won life for all of us. That's the hope that we will celebrate in a few weeks time, on Easter morning.

The Rt Rev Emma Ineson, Mothers' Union Central Chaplain

WHO'S WHO

Vicar: The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride

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Curate: The Rev Peter S Blake MTh

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Parish Administrator: Audrey McClements

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

Hon Treasurer: Mrs Cynthia Cherry MBE

Tel: 07703 547 647

Parish Recorder: Mr Brian Neill

Tel: (028) 9446 3708

Sexton & Caretaker: Mr Cecil Barton

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