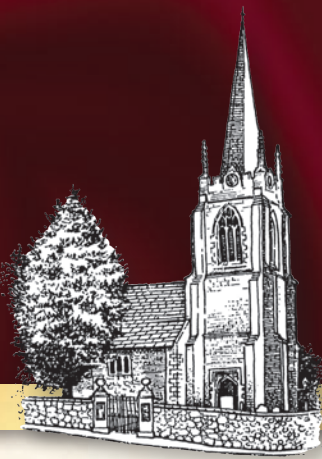


SPRING 2022

SAINTS *Alive!*

antrim.connor.anglican.org

THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY!

*Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you. Psalm 84:4*

Every Sunday is a chance for a fresh start. Many times, as I've prepared to go to church, I've felt the burdens of the week just float away as I've thought about getting together with friends and family to sing, hear God's Word and celebrate at the Holy Table.

Sadly, Covid has really interrupted the spiritual lives of many of us. It has broken good habits such as weekly church attendance and introduced bad ones like eating toast while checking WhatsApp during the online prayers. None of this could be helped as we were making the best of a bad situation. But really, it's a bit like sitting watching other people slow dancing. You feel a bit awkward, a little bit left out and you know it's a bit weird spectating from the side-lines.

This coming Easter Sunday is an extra special Sunday. We are treating it as a "Back to Church" Sunday. This will be a day when we have the chance to make a fresh start. It is a day for each of us to experience the joy of returning to

church for a warm welcome from those who have missed us.

I have friends who are dedicated Irish league fans. Every chance they get, they are off to watch their team at home or away. Sun, rain, or snow, they never miss a game. My best man is obsessed with Formula 1 racing. He's a great helpful guy but you won't get him out of the house when a Grand Prix is on, and he only watches it on TV because he can't attend the real thing. I know a lot of folks in the town love hockey or rugby and wouldn't miss their kid's or team's game.

This Easter is a brilliant chance to say, 'I want to feel that same sort of passion and joy about my faith. I want to sing my heart out with old and new friends. To listen to the Bible being read. To pray with others. I want to be a part of the Vicar's Vision for the future of our Parish and get involved. I want God to know how grateful I am for the good times and how much I appreciate his support during the difficult and traumatic days.'

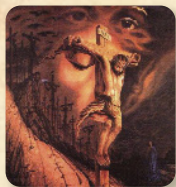


A great deal of thought and effort has been put into making our services and buildings as safe as possible over the past two years and we will continue to observe all the recommendations from the Department of Health and the House of Bishops. We are making progress back to normality carefully and safely and wish to assure you that All Saints is a safe place to come and worship.

When or where better to come and affirm and renew our faith together than in All Saints' on Easter Sunday. We hope to see you then.

*Every Blessing,
Stephen and Peter*





WHAT'S ON HOLY WEEK SERVICES

This year we are delighted to join with our neighbours in Antrim Methodist Church and their new minister, The Rev Stephen Thompson who will be leading us in a very special service to mark Maundy Thursday.

Maundy Thursday 14 April

7.30pm **Special Service**
in Antrim Methodist Church

Good Friday 15 April

10.00am **Meditation Service** in All Saints'
11.30am **Walk of Witness** from High Street
7.30pm **Tenebrae Service** in All Saints'

Easter Sunday 17 April

7.30am **Dawn Service** at Lough Shore
11.30am **Holy Communion for Easter**
in All Saints'

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

Thursday 28 April
at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

We are delighted to be able to report that we will be having our sixteenth Walk of Witness. In the past, in each church, the clergy lead a short service of a scripture reading based on Christ's crucifixion, a hymn and a prayer. However, with Covid restrictions, we are not going to go into each church, rather the people are encouraged to meet at High Street at 11.30am and we are bussed to Antrim Methodist Church where the first outdoor service begins at 12.00 noon. We will walk down the Greystone Road into the town, past All Saints and St Comgall's, hopefully to gather under the bandstand in the Parterre Gardens in the Castle grounds at 12.45pm for a short act of worship and return to High Street Presbyterian Church to collect our cars. We hope to see you join us in this very powerful affirmation of our unity in the Christian faith.



EASTER MORNING DAWN SERVICE

We are having our Dawn Service at 7.30am the Lough Shore Car Park on Easter Sunday 17 April to celebrate our Lord's resurrection. This will take the form of a short service of Holy Communion followed by sausage baps back in the Parish Centre. These services have been moving and memorable occasions.



EXTRA MILE

Our latest Extra Mile collection was to raise **Fuel Vouchers For Local Families** and this was supported through Womens' Aid.

We are delighted to report that to date, we have raised over £1,000 and this has been passed on to Women's Aid who will ensure that the most needy in our community will receive a voucher to bring a little relief to heat their homes. Arlene Creighton from Women's Aid was delighted to receive a cheque for £1,000. In an email to Irene Gates, who is co-ordinating our appeal, Arlene wrote, 'This is brilliant, thank you so much to everyone for their generous support. With the rising costs putting extra demands on our fuel monies this will be very much appreciated.' We have a set a target of £2,000 for our this project.

women's aid

until women & children are safe

REPAIRS TO OUR CHURCH TOWER



All our church buildings are inspected by a qualified architect/surveyor every five years to ensure that the fabric of our buildings is kept in the best state of repair and to ensure our safety. Following our recent quinquennial inspection report, in which certain problems with the tower were highlighted, we commissioned Chris McCollum to carry out a drone survey of the church tower and a more detailed report on what actions were needed to be taken to prevent further deterioration. This was done in November 2021 and the Select Vestry received the written and photographic reports at the beginning of February 2022.

Immediate work required £30,000: this includes the costs of replacing all rainwater goods including down pipes and gutters. There is evidence of the failure of our guttering, downpipes and joints and this has resulted in water getting into the stonework of the building. As the stone is not being allowed to dry properly, vegetation is growing and some stonework joints are failing. If this is not dealt with, there could be a more rapid deterioration of the stones in the tower and this could also lead to problems with timbers rotting. There is strong evidence that we are experiencing more regular and more powerful bouts of rainfall than in previous years, and our current guttering cannot deal with the greater volumes of water.

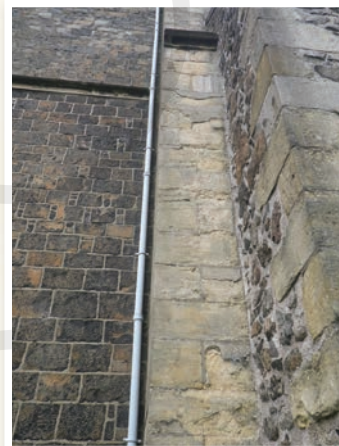
Necessary work - repairing stone to the tower £86,000: some of the stonework on the elevation of the tower at the front door, the north side, is showing signs of deterioration as is the stonework on the opposite elevation, the south side which is subjected to more weathering due to the prevailing winds.

Desirable work - further long term repairs £75,000: a building as old as All Saints, dating back to 1596 for the main church building and 1816 for the tower needs constant attention. The survey shows where stones have been replaced over the years and this survey highlights the need to keep a constant watch on how our stones are weathering. Our tower and spire are generally in a good state of repair and this desirable work may not be needed to be addressed for quite a while, but in the interim period we have been advised to keep a regular check on the overall integrity of the stonework of all the church.

At the Select Vestry meeting on Monday 28 March, we had a very useful meeting with Chris McCollum and we have decided to carry out the immediate work (£30,000) of replacing the rainwater goods and the work to the north (front door) elevation (£43,000). When fees are added, we are probably looking at costs of close to £80,000.

How are we going to raise £80,000?

We hope to raise this sum over a period of five years, partly through grants which we will apply for from the National Churches Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Church of Ireland Fabric Fund. Realistically, we will probably have to fund about £60,000 ourselves. This is a large amount of money, but when broken down, it equates to each person or family that has a set of Freewill Offering Envelopes giving an extra £3.50 per month in our blue monthly Fabric Fund Envelope. Hopefully this is a challenge we can all meet to ensure the future of our beautiful historic church building.



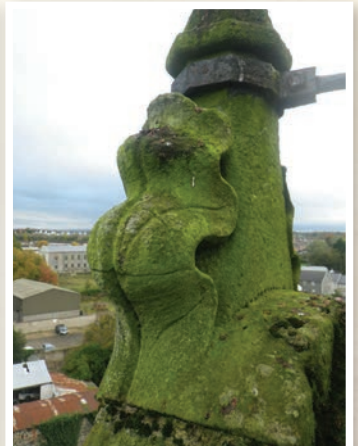
Sandstone Buttress



Hopper missing



Tower Roof



Cracking to Moulded Stone

ON BECOMING PASTORAL ADMINISTRATOR

When I first came to All Saints' in January 2019 I was very much looking forward to this new placement. Little did I realise how much of a blessing it would be to be a part of the worshipping community in this beautiful church. Hand on heart I can say I have met some of the warmest and kindest people that I have ever know in the time that has passed.

As with any Curacy, the third year is a time for reflection and consideration. The Vicar and I had a few chats about what might happen next, and we both felt that me staying on as Pastoral Administrator would be something we



would be delighted with. I am incredibly grateful that the Vestry agreed, and I can now announce that I will be staying in the Parish in the role of Pastoral Administrator from July onwards.

As I write this notice, I feel very keenly the sense of responsibility that comes with being offered this post. I am humbled by your trust in me, and I am very proud that myself and my family will continue to share laughter, tears and God's blessing in the warm, welcoming community of All Saints'.

With Gratitude, Peter

THE CROSS

The cross is a universal symbol of Christianity; it's almost impossible to go anywhere without seeing it on a steeple or headstone. How did an instrument of torture come to represent forgiveness and hope for so many? After all, we don't wear little gold guillotines round our necks, or display replicas of firing squads on our church walls. The answer can be found in the cross itself. Its horizontal beam symbolises the breadth of God's love; its vertical beam symbolises the depth and height of His love. It's why God can be just and kind without lowering His standards, why He can dispense truth and mercy, and why He can redeem us without sanctioning our sin.

John said, **'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'** (John 3:16 NIV).

Thankfully it doesn't say God loved only the wealthy or the famous or the beautiful or the sober or the successful, or we'd all be in trouble! No, if you live in 'the world' you're included by God.

Jesus didn't have to die, He chose to! He told His captors, **'Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?'** (Matthew 26:53 NIV). As Max Lucado says, 'The force behind the hammer wasn't an angry mob... the hand squeezing the handle wasn't a Roman infantryman... the verdict... wasn't decided by jealous Jews. Jesus Himself chose the nails... Had the soldier hesitated Jesus Himself would have swung the hammer.' That's how much He loves you.



Don't forget you can still view our services live and watch recent services online. Simply visit **All Saints Facebook page** or **antrim.connor.anglican.org** and click on the Church Webcam.

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