

CHRISTMAS 2021

# SAINTS *Alive!*

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

THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM

## BAH HUMBUG! REALLY?

'Bah humbug,' is the phrase most famously used by Ebenezer Scrooge, the main character in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* (1843) and is an exclamation that conveys the curmudgeonly displeasure many people have with all the trappings that have choked the life and meaning out of Christmas. It is also a sentiment that has been adopted by some well-meaning Christians who see suspicion, religious superstition and paganism in all the elements that so many of us find joyful in the dark winter nights. Such harsh debunking is nothing more than holy humbug.

There are those who will argue that Jesus wasn't born on 25 December and that Christmas is an adaptation of a pagan festival of light. They are correct. We don't know the exact date when Jesus was born, but what an excellent idea to turn a winter festival about the lack of light into a Christian one which celebrates the 'Light which came into the world.' He had to be born at some time of the year and we should mark his coming into the world in some way, so what better way for the Light of the world's birth to be celebrated during the darkest nights of the winter when we need cheering up.

A Christmas tree which brightens up our homes for a few weeks in December is a reminder of the God who 'gives us richly all things to enjoy' (1 Timothy 6:17). The same God assigned sacred appointments of feasting and great gladness to lift our spirits (1 Chronicles 29:22). Although no one can make a biblical

case for Christmas trees, we gather around them with joy. We see in its branches a symbol of everlasting life given to us because Jesus's life came to an end as he hung on a tree. Through his death, we have life.

The ornaments on the Christmas tree reflect the decorative splendour with which God's kindnesses adorn our lives. The star beams hope with a heavenward ray and the lights remind us of the one who said 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will have the light of life' (John 8:12).

It is good to wish people 'a Merry Christmas' and yet Christmas is more than merely 'merry' it is a mighty celebration of unfettered enjoyment, love, laughter, gifts and giving. While overindulgence and overspending can choke the life out of this most wonderful time of the year, without Christ at the centre of Christmas, the music of our carols rings hollow and the greetings, wishes and smiles lie on the surface like glitter glued on a flat card. With Christ in Christmas, he can change entrenched habits, transform cold hearts and lift our lives out of the shadows.

Please continue to reach out to all those around you, especially those you know who are having a particularly difficult and dark time. Encourage, bless, bake, give, receive, visit, invite, share and lift hearts wherever you can and by the New Year you will find Christmas to have been marvellously and even miraculously mighty.

*Based on UCB Word  
for Today, 25 & 26  
December 2021*





# CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

P	U	P	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	N	D	N	L	I	C
Y	U	L	E	T	I	D	E	O	M	H	F	C	P	U	U	F	E
L	D	C	T	I	N	S	E	L	C	O	K	R	R	T	M	R	L
I	E	A	E	I	M	Y	N	P	Z	L	E	H	E	C	V	U	E
G	C	R	G	U	L	I	J	O	L	L	Y	O	S	R	C	I	B
H	O	O	G	I	X	A	S	Y	W	Y	S	L	E	A	L	T	R
T	R	L	N	N	N	N	B	T	R	F	N	I	N	C	X	C	A
S	A	E	O	O	H	G	D	M	L	R	L	D	T	K	C	A	T
F	T	R	G	E	M	E	E	G	C	E	M	A	S	E	Y	K	E
E	I	S	B	L	S	L	O	R	M	I	T	Y	K	R	C	E	K
S	O	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	B	Y	T	O	B	E	L	L	S
T	N	K	V	M	X	H	D	L	Y	R	A	W	E	Z	S	G	T
I	S	V	C	H	E	S	N	U	T	S	E	J	I	N	G	L	E
V	O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	S	C	G	A	R	L	A	N	D
E	P	M	P	O	I	N	S	E	T	T	I	A	D	T	R	E	E

Angel  
Bells  
Carolers  
Celebrate  
Chesnuts  
Christmas  
Decorations  
Eggnog  
Festive  
Fruitcake  
Garland  
Gingerbread  
Holiday  
Holly  
Jingle  
Jolly  
Lights  
Mistletoe  
Noel  
Nutcracker  
Ornaments  
Poinsettia  
Presents  
Snowflakes  
Snowman  
Tinsel  
Tree  
Yuletide

## NO VACANCY STILL

Those words, "There was no room for them in the inn," remind me of an experience my family had several years ago. We had been travelling all day, and I was trying to find a hotel where we could spend the night. It was getting late, and the children were tired and fidgety. As we drove along the highway, our hopes were dashed time and again by the sight of NO VACANCY signs. As a father, responsible for the well-being of my family, I was frustrated and discouraged. But then I thought of Mary and Joseph. How much worse it must have been when they arrived in Bethlehem and found no rooms available! I can imagine Joseph pleading with the manager of the inn, telling him of Mary's condition and their desperate need for a suitable place where she could give birth to her child. Luke tells us that "there was no room for them in the inn," and that when Mary gave birth to Jesus she "wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger."

Today, nearly 20 centuries later, millions of people have no room for Jesus. Although they participate enthusiastically in the festivities of the Christmas season, they keep Him out of their lives. The "No Vacancy" sign is still there.



## OUR GREATEST NEED

If our greatest need had been **information**,  
God would have sent us an **educator**;  
If our greatest need had been **technology**,  
God would have sent us a **scientist**;  
If our greatest need had been **money**,  
God would have sent us an **economist**;  
If our greatest need had been **pleasure**,  
God would have sent us an **entertainer**;  
But our greatest need was **forgiveness**,  
so God sent us a **Saviour**.



## CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

### Sunday 19 December

10.00am & 12 noon	Festival of Lessons and Carols
11.00am	Funday Club Messy Christmas
7.00pm	Unite

### Christmas Eve

8.00pm & 10.00pm	Holy Communion <i>please book for these services</i>
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### Christmas Day

10.30am	Family Christmas celebration
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### Boxing Day

11.00am only	Readings and Carols for Christmas
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### Wednesday 29 December

11.00am	Holy Communion in the Parish Centre
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### Sunday 2 January 2022

11.00am only	Holy Communion
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## FUNDAY CLUB HOLIDAYS

There will be no Funday Club on **19, 26 December** and **2 January**. Funday Club will resume on **9 January 2022**.

## SMARTIE TUBE APPEAL

Smartie tubes will be distributed at our services over the Christmas period. Although the Rev Dr Keith Scott and his wife Lyn have retired from their posts at St John's Theological College in Kitwe, Zambia, we are continuing to support the students who are studying to be future clergy in the Church of Zambia. The fees for one student are £600 per year and we are committed to sponsoring two students for the next few years. So please keep on saving your 20p pieces.



## FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

The Hon. Treasurer wishes to close the books for the year ending December 2021 on **Sunday 26 January 2021**. It would be greatly appreciated if you could have all outstanding FWO envelopes for 2021 in by this date if you wish your contributions to be recorded in the 2021 year. If you are unable to get to church due to the current health restrictions and would wish someone to collect your envelopes, please contact the Vicar on 028 9446 2186.

We are holding Unite, a contemporary service at 7.00pm on the fourth Sunday evening of each month which will be a lively act of worship, with songs, teaching and a short celebration of Holy Communion and is open to all parishioners.

**Our next service is on Sunday 19 December.**



## LEADERS NEEDED!

We have thriving youth organisations in our parish. The Rainbows and Brownies meet each Monday at 6.00pm. Our Scouts meet each Tuesday evening with Beavers and Cubs beginning at 6.30pm and Scouts at 8.00pm.

While we have great numbers attending all our organisations, we are in great need of more leaders and helpers to keep our organisations open. Although it is a commitment of a couple of ours per week, the rewards of helping to shape the lives of our young people in a friendly and safe environment is immense. Please consider coming along and offering your support. We are in danger of having to close some of our units unless we get help and quickly.





# 425th ANNIVERSARY *of the consecration of All Saints' Parish Church*

On Sunday 7 November 2021, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Reverend John McDowell was our special preacher at the service to mark this marvellous milestone in the life of our church. Archbishop McDowell was our curate when we celebrated our quatercentenary, our 400th anniversary in 1996 and it was fitting that he should be our distinguished guest in 2021.

To celebrate our anniversary several gifts were dedicated following the Vicar's Churchwarden, Dr Brian Ford's petition of the Archbishop.

- Flower pedestals in memory of **Ella Doherty, Margaret Long** and a gift of **the Gates Family**
- A stained glass window in memory of **Liam Blackbourne**
- An audio visual and home broadcast system in memory of **Raymond and Jean Bates and George Bates, Graham Brown, Thomas Campbell, Joan Hayes, Victor Keys, Martin and Mervyn Kidd**

Archbishop McDowell wrote, 'It was lovely to be back in All Saints', Antrim among so many friends and having the privilege of dedicating gifts to some fine people.'

The audio visual and home broadcast system has been such a lifeline throughout the pandemic enabling us to connect with our parishioners especially in those times when we were confined to our homes or shielding. The daily services at 9.00am Monday – Friday and our weekly services were so important in keeping us together and for many, it was a bright start to each day. The distribution of i-Pad devices is still greatly appreciated by our parishioners who do not have internet connection. It is another invaluable way of keeping our connections alive.

The world wide web is exactly that, it is worldwide. On one occasion, I conducted a funeral with family members spread from Los Angeles to New Zealand being able to join in the service. On another occasion, a grandfather in Chicago was able to watch as his grandson was baptised.



Front: Archbishop John McDowell and Archdeacon Stephen McBride. Rear: Lee Boal (Student reader), The Rev Peter Blake, Curate Assistant Claire Thompson (Ordinand)





Over the weeks of lockdown we became aware of Pat and Molly Coghlan in Edmonton, Canada who have become our distant parishioners. They are family members of Davy and Lillian Tate who attend our Wednesday morning celebrations. In a card given to the Vicar during a recent visit, Pat wrote, 'Those weekly broadcasts brought solace to a dark and fearful time for Mom and myself by keeping us connected to our faith, to family and to the global community. Mom holds those memories of online All Saints' services firmly in her heart. Thank you for extending your faith-based arms across the internet to us. Sincerely, Molly and Pat Coghlan.'



You can view our services live and watch recent services online. Simply visit **All Saints Facebook page** or **[antrim.connor.anglican.org](http://antrim.connor.anglican.org)** and click on the Church Webcam.

At the evening service on 7 November, the Bishop of Connor, The Rt Rev George Davison, on his first episcopal visit to Antrim confirmed 15 young adults and three adults. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, Owen Wilkinson, Shay Wilkinson and Erin Woods were unable to be confirmed, but will be so in the near future. We hope that our young adults will continue to grow in their faith through their participation in Next Steps which meets each Sunday evening at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre.

Next Steps is a mixture of games, chat, discussion and treats. We are also holding Unite, a contemporary service at 7.00pm on the fourth Sunday evening of each month which will be a lively act of worship, with songs, teaching and a short celebration of Holy Communion and is open to all parishioners.



Front row: Emily Wray, Jack Clyde, Cadhla Molloy, John Armstrong, Troy McLaughlin. Back row: Lauren Blake, Grace Totten, the Vicar, Connor Graffin, the Bishop



Front row: Mason McClelland, Lewis McNamee, Jay McNeill, Reuben Johnston. Middle row: Kai Thompson, Emily Coulter, Sophia McCullough. Back row: The Rev Peter Blake, Danielle McBride, Jennifer Gould, the Vicar, Billy Gould, the Bishop



# THE GREAT WAR

*An extract from the Most Rev John McDowell's address at the Commemoration Service for the 100th Anniversary of the Ulster Memorial Tower, held at Thiepval, on the Somme.*

The Great War was unique in the history of warfare for a number of reasons. It was the first war that involved mass mobilisation of the civilian population. As a result, it was the first war to suffer mass casualties and it was the first war that was followed by mass public remembrance. Up until 1919 public memorials to a war or a great victory usually took the form of an equestrian statue of a famous general. You can see such statues in many cities across Europe still. But the scale of casualties, in what the General Service Medal calls 'The Great War for Civilisation 1914-1919', was so vast that there was an instinct that such memorials would simply no longer do.

At first there was a plaster and lath cenotaph (a cenotaph is an empty tomb) was erected in Whitehall, in 1919. It seems the government's intention was that it would be removed following, what was in effect, the first Armistice Day ceremony. But it soon became clear that the nation expected that the memory of the fallen should not be so soon forgotten in the public sphere, just as it would not be forgotten in the homes of the millions of war dead. The great imperial architect, Edward Lutyens, was commissioned to design the elegant and simple memorial which still stands in Whitehall. Following this, memorials began to appear in other places such as town, city and village squares as well as in many churches as well as the great monuments such as at the Menin Gate which is covered in the names of the fallen. When millions perish, it is easy to dwell on the scale of the loss (which is truly mind numbing) and to forget that each was an individual life; a human being who God loves with an everlasting love.

In the Massereene Chapel we have a fitting memorial reminding us of those who served and fell in the Great War of 1914-1919 and now we are erecting a memorial to those from the parish who served and fell in the Second World War of 1939-1945. Their names are listed opposite. The memorial will be dedicated early in the new year. If you wish to make a contribution to the cost of the memorial (£3,500) you can leave a donation in the Extra Mile Bucket at the Churchwardens' desk in the church.





# ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM PAROCHIAL ROLL OF HONOUR OF THOSE WHO DIED AND SERVED

## KILLED IN ACTION

Leading Aircraftsman  
**GERALD McELREA**  
R.A.F.

## SERVED

Major  
**MAURICE FITZGERALD COLLIS**  
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Flying Officer  
**JOHN COLLINS**  
R.A.F.,  
mentioned in Dispatches

Leading Aircraftsman  
**FREDERICK EATON**  
R.A.F.

Chief Petty Officer Pilot  
**JOHN IVAN FAWCETT**  
Fleet Air Arm

Private  
**DAVID GAYNOR**  
Royal Artillery

Corporal  
**WILLIAM GAYNOR**  
Royal Electrical and  
Mechanical Engineers

Sapper  
**WILLIAM GORDON**  
Royal Engineers, Canadian Army

Private  
**SAMUEL GOWDY**  
Royal Scots Fusiliers

Leading Aircraftsman  
**DAVID HAMILTON**  
R.A.F.

Aircraftsman  
**THOMAS D. HANNAN**  
R.A.F.

Leading Aircraftsman  
**WILLIAM HANNAN**  
R.A.F.

Lance-Corporal  
**JAMES KELLY**  
R.A.F.

Able-Bodied Seaman  
**WILLIAM JAMES KENNEDY**  
Royal Navy

Leading Aircraftsman  
**GEORGE MAGEE**  
R.A.F.

Private  
**ELIZABETH McCREIGHT**  
A.T.S.

Rifleman  
**FREDERICK ROBB McCREIGHT**  
Royal Ulster Rifles

Leading Aircraftsman  
**WILLIAM ALEXANDER  
McCREIGHT**  
R.A.F.

Leading Aircraftsman  
**ADAM MURRAY McKEE**  
R.A.F.

Rifleman  
**FREDERICK ROBERT McKEE**  
Royal Ulster Rifles

Private  
**WILLIAM McBURNEY McKEE**  
Pioneer Corps

Gunner  
**ROBERT JAMES McVEIGH**  
Royal Artillery

Private  
**THEODORE ALEXANDER  
MOLLOY**  
Royal Army Service Corps

Flight-Sergeant  
**SAMUEL JAMES NICHOLL**  
R.A.F.

Leading Aircraftsman  
**HUGH PERCY**  
R.A.F.

Aircraftsman (First Class)  
**HENRY RAINEY**  
R.A.F.

Private  
**SAMUEL RAINEY**  
Royal Engineers

Leading Aircraftsman  
**WILLIAM JAMES RAINEY**  
R.A.F.

Lieutenant The Hon.  
**JOHN CLOTWORTHY TALBOT  
FOSTER WHYTE-MELVILLE-  
SKEFFINGTON**  
Black Watch

Private  
**THOMAS SCOTT**  
Pioneer Corps

Able-Bodied Seaman  
**MAXWELL SPENCER**  
Royal Navy

Corporal  
**AGNES STEWART**  
A.T.S.

Private  
**CHARLES STEWART**  
Pioneer Corps

Nursing Officer  
**FRANCES STEWART**  
Royal Navy

Corporal  
**JOHN TOTTEN**  
Royal Engineers

Leading Aircraftsman  
**HUGH WALLACE**  
R.A.F.

Leading Aircraftsman  
**JAMES HANNAN WALLACE**  
R.A.F.

Corporal  
**JOHN WALLACE**  
R.A.F.

Private  
**MARY WALLACE**  
A.T.S.

Sergeant  
**OSWALD WALLACE**  
R.A.F.

Corporal  
**ROBERT WALLACE**  
R.A.F.

Sergeant  
**ROBERT WALLACE**  
Royal Engineers

Private  
**GEORGE WRIGHT**  
Royal Ulster Rifles

Lieutenant-Colonel  
**MICHAEL HUGHES YOUNG, M.C.**  
The Black Watch,  
Royal Highland Regiment



# 60 NOT OUT

On 28 September I celebrated my 60th birthday and two days before that Cynthia Cherry, our Hon Treasurer presented me with a most generous cheque which was made up of donations from parishioners. I have used the money to buy three paintings. Two of the paintings are by Belfast artist, Colin H Davidson.

**Black with men** depicts the shipyard workers on their way home at the end of a day's graft with the Titanic being constructed in the background.

**Here's M'Da now** is another end of the day depiction with the Goliath crane in the background. My great grandfather was a master carpenter and should have sailed on the Titanic's fated maiden voyage, but he was forbidden by his wife who thought he was simply going on a jolly to get away from the children. My grandfather was a port health officer and as a child, he took me around the docks most Saturdays.



I can remember seeing the Goliath crane being constructed.

**The Belfast Trolley Bus** is the third picture. My grandparents lived near to a bus depot and I am old enough to remember the last of the trolley buses in Belfast.

Many thanks for your generosity and thanks too for the most gracious words Peter penned in his sermon about me and my ministry.

I am most blessed.

What do you call an old snowman?  
**Water**

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?  
**A mince spy!**

Why did the turkey join the band?  
**Because it had the drumsticks!**

What do you call Santa when he forgets his underwear?  
**St Nickerless**

Who's Rudolph's favourite pop star?  
**Beyon-sleigh!**

What carol is heard in the desert?  
**O camel ye faithful!**

Why can't Christmas trees knit?  
**Because they always drop their needles!**



## WHO'S WHO

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*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*