

SPRING 2023

SAINTS *Alive!*

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THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM

'THEREFORE I TELL YOU, DO NOT WORRY ABOUT YOUR LIFE...

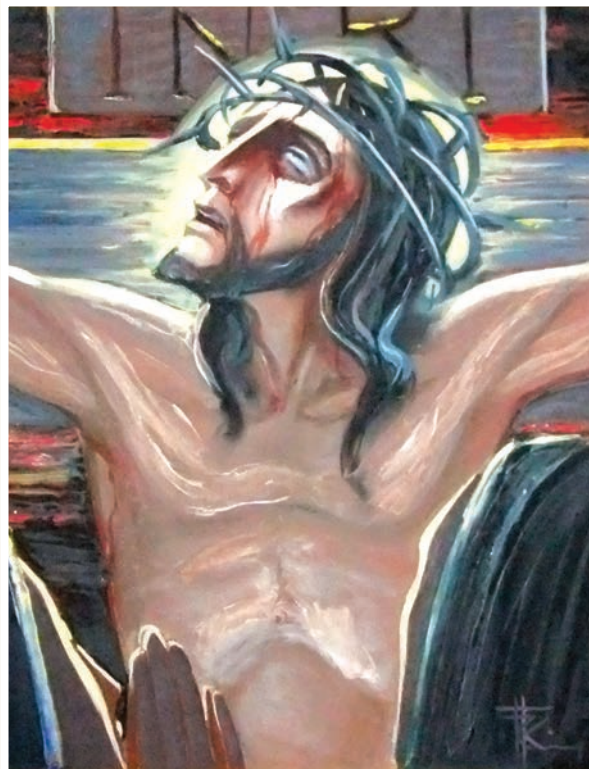
Jesus said, 'therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?'

Matthew 6:25-34

I was helping in the Funday Club a few weeks ago and we were playing a bit of "The Price is Right" with random objects. One of the objects was a handmade cross, a gift from one of our parishioners now with the Lord. We all agreed that this lovely gift was most valuable and that the most important thing in life was love – from God, family and friends and that the monetary value of things didn't matter as much.

I recently listened to an audio book about how we spend our money. Often, we think of money as something to be enjoyed or something to never have enough of but the author of "Your Money or Your Life" makes this central point that we earn money with the hours of our lives. In return for giving up the hours of our life we receive currency which can be exchanged for the things that we want or need.

That then is the transaction that many of us are making day by day. We pay for the things that we have with the time that we have in this life. And as Jesus says in our reading no amount of worrying or stress will give us one of those hours back. So, it is best to spend them wisely.

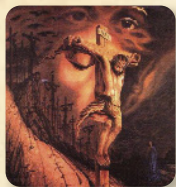


But when all we do is give the hours of our lives for others and for things we may begin to feel that life has become all about what is being given by us. We can end up feeling spent. However, it is good to know that someone has done that very thing for us too. This person had no lavish trips abroad. He travelled on foot to places where he might be welcomed or rejected. He had no car or chariot. He had to borrow a donkey just to fulfil a prophecy when he went to Jerusalem to die. He had no home, because what he provided for animals, he did not even give to himself. He spent his nights under the stars.

When Jesus came to give the relatively short number of his earthly hours, he gave them completely. He kept nothing for himself. He even gave his last three hours on the cross for us. Through the gift of the cross, we will all be raised to eternal life and then we will all meet the resurrected Jesus who gave everything for our salvation!

I hope you will join us at one of our services over the next few days and hear more of this incredible story of love. Happy Easter!

Peter



WHAT'S ON HOLY WEEK SERVICES

This year we are delighted to join with our neighbours in Antrim Methodist Church, High Street Presbyterian Church and also Antrim Christian Fellowship Church in their new building in Lough Road, which was part of the Royal British Legion complex.

Tuesday 4 April

7.30pm in Antrim Methodist Church

Wednesday 5 April

7.30pm in Antrim Christian Fellowship Church

Maundy Thursday 6 April

7.30pm in High Street Presbyterian Church

Good Friday 7 April

10.00am **Meditation Service** in All Saints'

7.30pm **Tenebrae Service** in All Saints'

Easter Sunday 9 April

7.30am **Dawn Service** at Lough Shore

11.30am **Holy Communion for Easter**
in All Saints'

Please note: There will be no Funday Club
on **9 April** and **16 April**

17th ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

We are delighted to be able to report that we will be having our seventeenth Walk of Witness without any restrictions. We will be joined by the Mayor of Antrim Stephen Ross. We are encouraged to meet at High Street at 11.30am and we will be bussed to Antrim Methodist Church where the first service begins at 12.00 noon. We will then walk down the Greystone Road into the town, to All Saints, to Antrim Fellowship Church in Lough Road, St Comgall's and then on to High Street Presbyterian for our concluding service at 2.00pm. We hope to see you join us in this very powerful affirmation of our unity in the Christian faith.



EASTER GENERAL VESTRY **Monday 17 April** at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre

EASTER MORNING DAWN SERVICE



We are having our Dawn Service at 7.30am at the Lough Shore Car Park on Easter Sunday 9 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.



CORONATION TEA PARTY FOR KING CHARLES III Sunday 7 May at 11.30am

Our morning service on Sunday 7 May will take the form of a service of thanksgiving for King Charles III and Queen Camilla. For most of us, this is the first time in our life time that we have been alive to celebrate the coronation of a new monarch. To mark such a momentous day, we will be having a celebration afternoon tea in the parish centre after the service.



THE EXTRA MILE BUCKET



A few years ago, the Extra Mile Bucket was placed on the Churchwardens' Table to collect parishioners' loose change, and the monies raised have been used to fund a variety of projects including five extendable wheelchairs for Mozambique through the Girassol charity. Our next project was to provide £30 water filters for Tanzania, and £2,100 was collected which enabled us to purchase 70 filters.

In February 2022, the focus for our next project was to provide fuel vouchers for families suffering hardship and fuel stress in our local community and this was done in conjunction with Women's Aid. As a result of the generosity of parishioners, the Extra Mile appeal has now raised £4,200 for fuel vouchers. On Sunday 12 February Arlene Creighton, Communication and Engagement Manager Women's Aid ABCLN attended All Saints to receive cheques for £4,200 and a donation of £500 from Antrim Rotary Club.

Although we are good at complaining about the weather here in Antrim, we are fortunate not to suffer from the extremes of floods, cyclones, forest fires, tsunamis, landslides or earthquakes. Our next Extra Mile project is to purchase two shelter boxes. ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that provides emergency shelter and other relief items to families around the world who have lost their homes to disaster or conflict. Recovery doesn't happen overnight, but a dry and warm place to sleep, prepare meals and be with your family is the vital first step.



The contents of a shelter box will vary according to local needs and conditions, for example a tent, or some lengths of tarpaulin to waterproof a damaged roof. Included also would be some basic tools, blankets/groundsheets, lights, water carriers and purifiers, cooking utensils, whatever ShelterBox considers necessary in each situation. ShelterBox works in conjunction with other organisations, such as Rotary International and Relief Aid.

£590 provides one shelter box.
We are hoping to raise the money for two.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9



NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHALICE IN HOLY COMMUNION

During the pandemic there were certain guidelines issued from the House of Bishops about how we should administer the Chalice in Holy Communion and when we were able to receive the Sacrament, we had permission to use individual cups. This enabled us to receive Holy Communion in two kinds, in the bread and the wine, the Body and Blood of Christ. I have attached an edited version of a recent letter from the House of Bishops regarding the cessation of the use of individual cups.

In all our statements, we have sought to combine seamliness and safety and to take the best professional advice available to us. It is approximately a year now since we encouraged the restored use of the common cup at Holy Communion. This is the traditional Anglican practice in relation to the administration of the sacrament and is enshrined in the formularies of the Book of Common Prayer. The sharing of the Cup of the Lord is rich in meaning and value for the communicant, and only in the most extraordinary medical emergency could we take it upon ourselves to advise that the cup should be withdrawn, or that the consecrated wine of the Eucharist should be administered by other temporary means such as individual vessels.

We recognised a year ago that it would take some time for the cup to be restored across the whole church, that there would for a while need to be a degree of variety of practice, and that the position of those who remained nervous about receiving from it should be respected. Nevertheless, cognisant of the present situation in terms of public health, and mindful of professional wisdom which indicates the extremely low risk associated

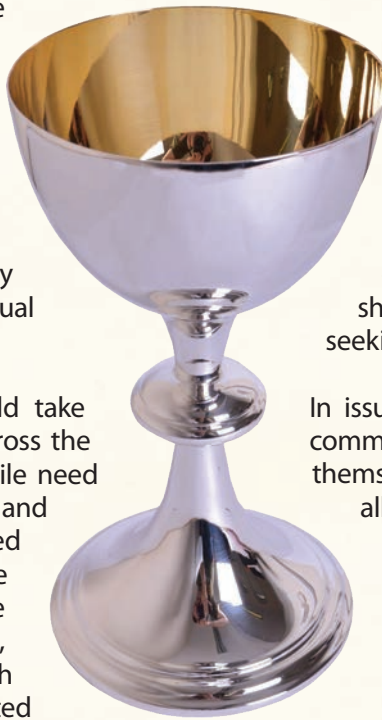
with the transmission of infection via a shared silver vessel containing the fermented fruit of the vine and used in an ordered liturgical context, we have all agreed to provide the following directions to the church. We believe we are doing this in a situation where in fact the common cup has already been largely restored around the parishes of the Church of Ireland.

Specific permissions given by individual bishops for the use of individual vessels at Holy Communion will lapse after Pentecost Sunday 2023. Thereafter the administration of the consecrated wine at Holy Communion in our churches should involve the common cup only.

Those who remain for their own reasons nervous about receiving from the common cup should be respected and they should receive in one kind only, with an assurance that the Church teaches that the sacrament can be fully received in one kind.

People who have infections that involve coughing and sneezing should probably think twice before coming to church, and certainly out of courtesy to others should show temporary gracious restraint in not seeking to receive from the common cup.

In issuing this guidance we are concerned that communicants feel safe, that they conduct themselves with mutual courtesy, and that above all the supper of the Lord is administered with reverence and with joy. In that spirit we pray that the full restoration of the common cup, surrounded of course by care and courtesy, can be for the whole Church of Ireland a matter of the greatest joy.



A DEATH IN THE HOLY LAND

A man, his wife, and his elderly mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away.

The local undertaker told them, "You can have a lavish ceremony and have her buried right here in the Holy Land for just £400. The alternative is the costly business of transporting her home for about £8,000".

The man instantly said 'Ship her home!'

The wife said, "Thank you for being so generous. I'm surprised you're willing to spend £8,000 just to ship my mother home, when it would be just as lovely for her to be buried here. Think of the money we'd save."

The man replied "I know a man that died here over 2000 years ago. He was buried here and three days later, he rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance!"



THE INBETWEENERS

The latest outing for the Inbetweens Group took place on **Friday 27 January** at the Need 4 Speed go-karting track in Doagh. There were three groups selected to race each other and although there were careful instructions about track etiquette and how we should overtake, it did not dampen the competitive streak in all the participants. It was a most exciting evening with everyone getting two races each lasting ten minutes. It made us all appreciate the level of fitness required to be a Formula One driver as ten minutes was quite a long time. Even at relatively modest speeds, the forces on arms and neck were considerable. The fastest driver over the two races was Stewart Smyth with Paul Allen in second place and Ian Armstrong a close third.



CHURCH TOWER UPDATE

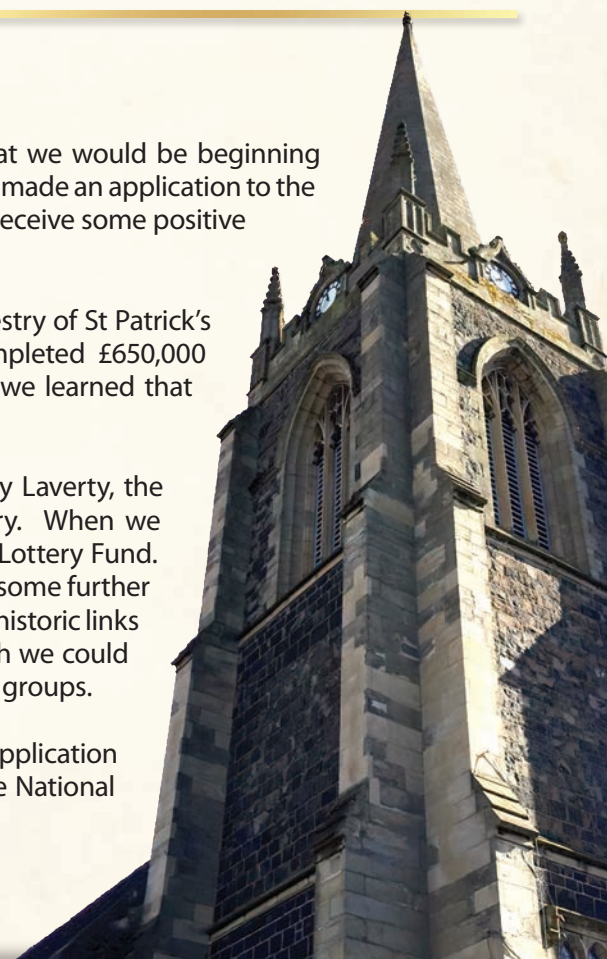
In previous editions of Saints Alive we had informed you of the hope that we would be beginning restoration work on the church tower in the spring of 2023. In November we made an application to the National Churches Trust's Cornerstone Grant with the hope that we would receive some positive news following the allocations meeting in March 2023.

The members of the Select Vestry met with two members of the Select Vestry of St Patrick's Parish in Ballymena to hear about how they funded their recently completed £650,000 restoration project and to learn from their experience. In the discussion we learned that there might be some funding available from the National Lottery.

The Vicar and our conservation architect, Chris McCollum met with Jimmy Laverty, the Engagement Manager for the National Heritage Lottery Fund in February. When we refurbished the church in 2015 we received substantial grant aid from the Lottery Fund. Following a very positive meeting, we learned that we might be eligible for some further funding from the Lottery Fund. Jimmy encouraged the parish to develop its historic links as a building and site of historic significance and to examine ways in which we could strengthen our connections with the community, schools and local interest groups.

In light of our conversation with Jimmy Laverty, we are resubmitting our application to the National Churches Trust Cornerstone Grant and also applying to the National Lottery.

We hope that work to the tower will begin in Autumn 2023.



FAITHFULNESS

A new employee once asked a co-worker, 'How long have you been working for the company?' He replied, 'Ever since the boss threatened to fire me!' Seriously, employers scramble to find workers who are faithful and dependable. Citizens long for politicians who will faithfully carry out all of their campaign promises. In the marriage ceremony, newlyweds are asked to be faithful to the vows they make to each other. The truth is, without faithfulness, your influence will be restricted, Faithfulness turns the mundane into the miraculous and transforms ordinary individuals into dependable achievers.

The world wants people who are faithful. There are more than 300 geysers in Yellowstone National Park, but one stands above the others. It's not the largest, and its waters don't reach the greatest height, but it's by far the most popular. And its popularity is due solely to one thing – its dependability. People stand in long lines under the hot sun to see it, because according to a precise schedule, it shoots a stream of boiling water more than 120 feet into the air. You can nearly set your watch by it. That's why it's called Old Faithful. People are attracted to our faithfulness. God is glorified by our faithfulness. So in all you do this day and every day, practise faithfulness.

Longfellow wrote, 'Most people would succeed in small things if they weren't troubled with great ambition.' Sometimes we think we're too big for small things; we would rather get on with what we perceive as bigger, more important matters. But here is how Jesus sees it: 'Anyone who can be trusted in little matters can also be trusted in important matters. But anyone who is dishonest in little matters will be dishonest in important matters. If you cannot be trusted with this wicked wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? And if you cannot be trusted with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something that will be your own?'

If you want to succeed on the job, come to work on time; stick with the job until it's finished; when you see something that needs to be done, do it – even if it's not in your job description. Give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay; take your designated lunch break, not a three-hour paid holiday; report your expenses truthfully; support the team; and uphold the company's reputation. In other words, be faithful on the job: 'Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might' (Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV). That's the kind of faithfulness God honours.

Faithfulness requires making 100 per cent of your effort 100 per cent of the time. American magazine *Insight* once published an article by Gary Sheer called 'Strive for Perfection... or Else!' It contained some alarming facts! The article said if 99.9 per cent was good enough, 103,260 income tax returns would be processed incorrectly that year... 22,000 cheques would be deducted from the wrong bank accounts within that next sixty minutes... 12 babies would be given to the wrong parents each day... 2 plane landings daily at O'Hare International Airport would be unsafe... 18,322 pieces of mail would be mishandled within that next hour... 291 pacemaker operations would be performed incorrectly that year... 880,000 credit cards in circulation would turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips... 20,000 incorrect medicine prescriptions would be written within that next twelve months... and 107 incorrect medical procedures would be performed by the end of that day. With God, faithfulness isn't merely a concept or a suggestion; it's a requirement of all who serve Him – and that includes you and me.

*Used by permission United Christian Broadcasters
Word For Today 5-8 February 2023*

EASTER WORDSEARCH

Ash	Easter
Wednesday	Palm Sunday
Sacrifice	Purple
Almsgiving	Palm Branch
Prayer	Forty Days
Fasting	Jesus
Lent	Passover
Holy Week	Foot Washing
Holy Thursday	Resurrection
Good Friday	Love
Holy Saturday	

H	F	D	J	Z	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	H	R	R
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THE VICAR'S NEW APPOINTMENT AS ALL IRELAND MOTHERS' UNION CHAPLIN

The following article was posted on the Church of Ireland website

The Archdeacon of Connor, the Ven Dr Stephen McBride, vicar of Antrim, has been appointed All Ireland Chaplain to the Mothers' Union. Announcing the appointment, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Rev John McDowell, said: "The Mothers' Union has been at the heart of the worship and witness of the Church of Ireland for more than a century, and under the enthusiastic guidance of June Butler and the present leadership team continues to serve the Church with cheerfulness, modesty and devotion.

"I can think of no better person than Dr Stephen McBride to support and nurture this spirit of involvement and dedication (and fun) at the heart of the Church, so well supported by his wife Helen. I know too that their very much grown up children Rachael and Alex and their families will relish and support Stephen in his new role. Stephen was my training rector and, in those curacy years, impressed



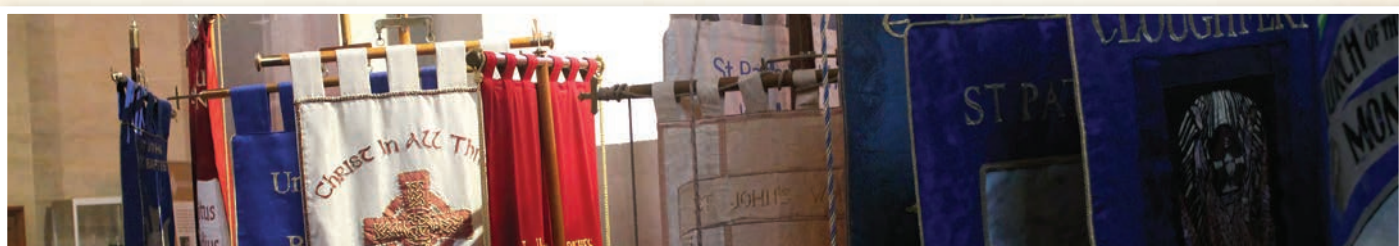
on me the importance of human relationships, especially the central relationship of marriage and family life, which are at the heart of our witness to the world."

Stephen said he was honoured to be considered as Canon Robert Deane's successor as All Ireland Chaplain and he looks forward to working alongside June Butler and the All Ireland Trustees and to meeting, worshipping with and supporting Mothers' Union members across Ireland.

Stephen McBride is the current Connor Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain and has had a long association with the Mothers' Union, first through his mother Claire who was a former chairperson of the Holy Trinity and Immanuel Parish, Belfast, branch. His mother-in-law, the late Jean Clyde, held several diocesan posts in Connor and Armagh at executive level. Stephen's wife Helen has been a member of the Mothers' Union from 1987 and was branch chairperson in Antrim Parish from 1996-2002.

Stephen said, 'I have been greatly encouraged by the many messages of congratulations that I have received following my appointment. It has been both affirming and humbling.'

A service of commissioning will take place in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh on Sunday 11 June at 3.30pm.



THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

In 2018, the world watched in shock as a gunman took hostages in a French supermarket. There was a tense siege and then in a remarkable act of bravery, policeman Lieutenant Colonel Arnaud Beltrame offered to step in and trade places with one of the hostages. Sadly, Arnaud Beltrame was later attacked by the gunman and died from his injuries. But what an extraordinary act of selflessness and courage!

It reminds me of another even more extraordinary story – the story of Jesus, who was willing to leave all glory behind and come to earth to trade his life for the life of all humankind. In other words, he willingly swapped his life for ours to give us the opportunity to be freed from the enemy who was holding us hostage to sin.

Nothing that happened in his life was ever forced on him, but it was all something Jesus consciously and willingly gave himself over to do. Jesus says very clearly in John

10:18 'No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of myself. Isn't it amazing that he would give his life so that you and I could live for eternity.'

From his incarnation (birth) to his last breath on the cross, Jesus came to give us life and life in all its abundance even as he voluntarily gave himself over to death so that sinners like you and me could be redeemed. Just the thought that God would spare his son to save someone like me makes me want to shout, 'Hallelujah! What a Saviour!' I trust you know that feeling too.

And so at this time of year, as we remember that Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice, let us never forget the message of Easter: that Jesus not only took our place in dying for us, but he rose up triumphantly that you and I may not only have life, but have it in all its fulness.

David L'Herroux, UCB's Chief Executive

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

The Vicar, Select Vestry, staff and volunteers are committed to uphold good practice in the parish's ministry with children. Should you have a concern, suspicion or allegation regarding child welfare in the parish, please contact a member of the parish panel.



Dr Brian Ford
028 9446 2378



Hazel Dalton



**Ven Dr
Stephen McBride**
028 9446 2186

The Duty Worker or local area manager may be contacted at the local Gateway team on **0300 1234 333**
In emergency contact Antrim PSNI on **0845 600 8000**

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

WHO'S WHO

Vicar: **The Venerable Dr Stephen McBride**
Tel: (028) 9446 2186 E-mail: archdeacon@connor.anglican.org

Pastoral Administrator: **The Rev Peter S Blake MTh**
Tel: 07591 373405 E-mail: rev.peterblake@gmail.com

Curate Assistant: **The Rev Claire Thompson BSc**
E-mail: clairesg1@hotmail.com

Hon Treasurer:	Mr Brian Neill	Tel: (028) 9446 3708	Email: allsaints2treasurer@gmail.com
Hon Secretary:	Mrs Irene Gates	Tel: (028) 9446 6430	Email: allsaints2secretary@gmail.com
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