

AUTUMN 2024

SAINTS *Alive!*

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THE MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS' PARISH, ANTRIM

BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

EPHESIANS 4

Sometimes reading the letters of St Paul can be hard task as they are often obscure as we are not always aware of the issues he is addressing. His letters can be complicated and weighed down with a lot of complex theology. However, in this passage from Ephesians 4, where St Paul encourages us to be imitators of God, his advice is simple to understand. If we put it into practice, it can help us greatly not only in the effectiveness of our witness as Christians, but also living more peaceful and fulfilling lives.

What does it mean to be an imitator of God? How do we live our lives so that they are an authentic reflection of God's love and glory. It is often easier to talk about being followers of Jesus than actually living as followers and putting into practice what he has taught us. St Paul encourages us to be 'imitators of God as beloved children'. In life, we learn by imitating our parents. As Christians, we look to our heavenly Father as we see him revealed in the person of Jesus. Quite simply we are God's children, and we should act like it. The authenticity of our faith will be seen more often in how we act than in how we speak.

It makes me think about a story that one of my tutors told us a few years ago...

A woman was pulled over by the police for erratic driving. She hadn't done anything careless she was just showing mild traits of road rage. She was tailgating and not letting people merge ahead of her. She was simply driving in an unkind manner. She asked the police officer why she had been stopped, pointing out that she hadn't broken any laws. The officer told her that he had noticed several Christian bumper stickers on the back of her car and assumed it had been stolen since the driver was clearly not driving in a Christian manner! I think many of us have been guilty of that one. We are Christians, and therefore we should act like it.

St Paul urges us to BE KIND! Throughout the ages people have worshiped false, unkind Gods but we believe that our God is kind. The scriptures tell us that God is loving and kind and Jesus demonstrated this throughout his ministry. As imitators of God, kindness should be at the top of the list of qualities we should live by. Be kind on the roads, to those working in shops and restaurants, be kind to all our family members at home or in church. Be kind to those in need, to those who are different to us, be kind when speaking face to face and be kind on social media. Be tender hearted and forgive one another, unceasingly.

In this passage how to be kind is further examined – ANGER MANAGEMENT 'Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil' God does get angry, he is angry with sin, and disobedience and injustice and how society mistreats those who have no power. We can rightly feel anger, but we are not to hold on to it, rather we are to SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE- 'Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.' An obvious example of this visible in the world of social media where moaning and complaining greatly outweighs positive and uplifting comments. Complaining rarely builds others up and often undermines the community we are in.

So the next time we feel like complaining a little, we should try to think again and maybe try to say something positive and affirming. It probably will be hard, difficult for us all, but if we can make this one little change then we are taking a step closer to imitating God. Remember - Use words to build up others and give grace to those who hear. Paul finishes this little passage with the following advice, 'Live in love, as Christ loved us.' Hopefully we can put some of this practical advice to use.

Extracts from The Rev Claire Thompson's sermon on Ephesians 4:1-16, Sunday 11 August 2024

ALL SAINTS' MOTHERS' UNION 90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

On 6 June 2024, All Saints' Antrim branch of the Mothers' Union celebrated its 90th anniversary. A service of Holy Communion was held in the parish church and was conducted by the Bishop of Connor, Rt Rev George Davison and The Ven Dr Stephen McBride who also preached the sermon.

Following the service, a delicious supper prepared by the branch members was served in The Parish Centre. Sylvia Smyth, Branch Leader, on behalf of the branch members, warmly welcomed everyone to the celebrations. She also stated they were very honoured and pleased to be joined by Bishop George Davison and his wife Nadine; June Butler, Mothers' Union All Ireland President; Sally Cotter, Connor Diocesan President; Mavis Thompson, Diocesan President Down & Dromore; Iris Sutor, Zonal Trustee, and Ven Dr Stephen McBride in his role as Mothers' Union All Ireland Chaplain. Also, it was lovely to have former members with us and friends from neighbouring branches. Best wishes and apologies were received from former members and members of the Diocese who were unable to join us.

There were also former Branch Leaders present; Helen McBride, Jennifer Campbell, Sheila Thompson, Sylvia Barton and Paddy Wallace who is also a former Mothers' Union All Ireland President and Diocesan President and was given the honour of cutting the celebration cake.

All in all, it was a wonderful celebration, with a lovely atmosphere and fellowship.

Sylvia Smyth, Branch Chairperson



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT! ALL SAINTS' RESTORATION APPEAL

GIFT DAY AND HOG ROAST SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER at 11.30am

When we received our church building condition report in 2021, we were made aware of issues with the stonework and the pointing in the bell tower and spire of the church. We then commissioned a more detailed report to give us a better understanding of the work required and a breakdown of the costs for the repairs.

Urgent work	£30,000
Necessary work	£86,000
Desirable work	£75,000
Fees	£19,100
VAT	£42,020

TOTAL	£252,120
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Initially the Select Vestry considered the prospect of completing the work in two phases, (1) urgent and necessary, (2) desirable, but decided due to the cost implications it would be more prudent to complete all three areas of work in one phase. Members of the Select Vestry also took into consideration the volatile availability of granted funding.

In order to finance the repairs, alongside the grants that have been awarded to the parish, we need to raise upwards of £30,000 through our own donations to cover the total bill.

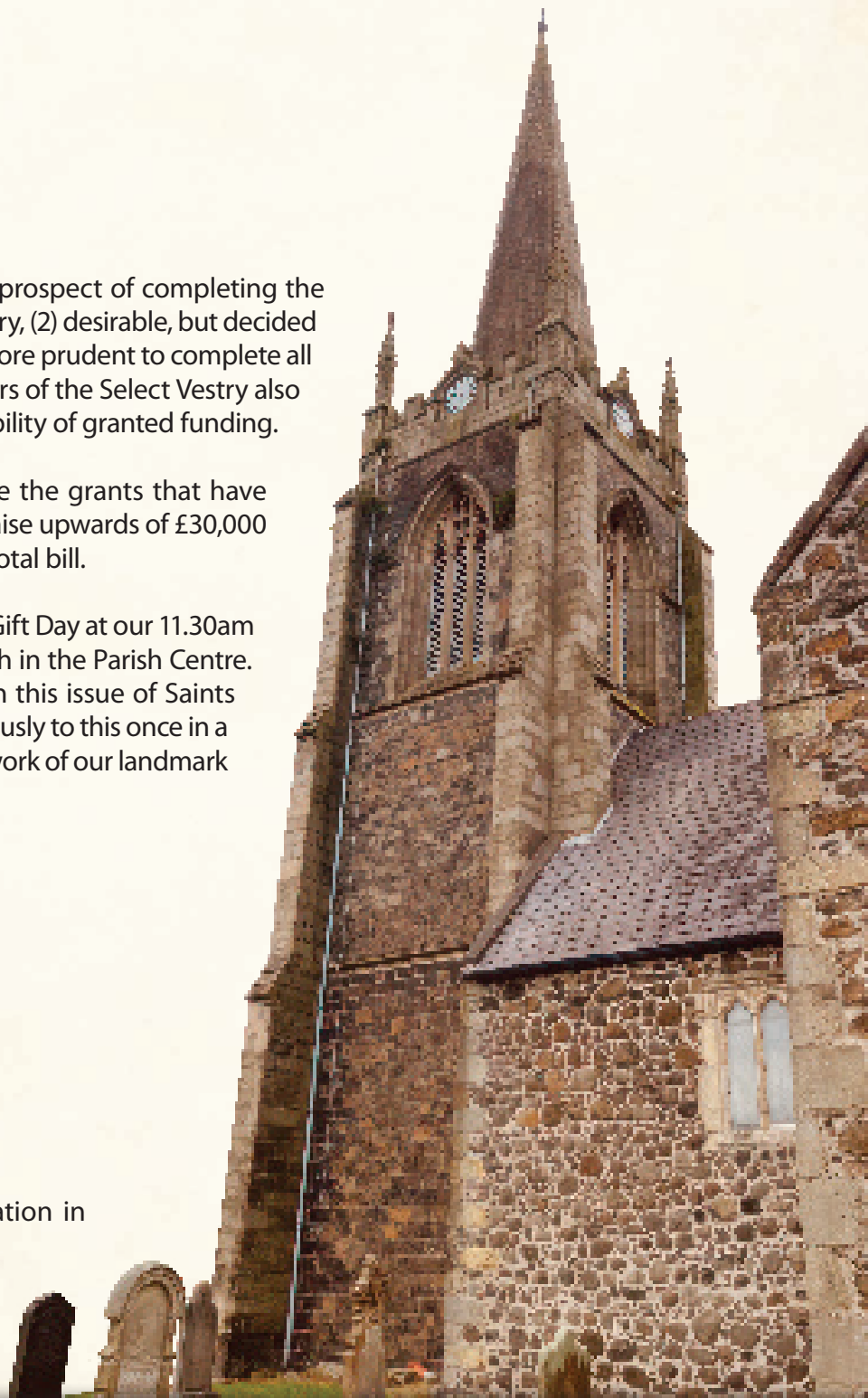
On Sunday 8 September we are having a Gift Day at our 11.30am service followed by a free Hog Roast lunch in the Parish Centre. You will receive a Gift Day envelope with this issue of Saints Alive and we would ask you to give generously to this once in a generation appeal to help save the stonework of our landmark spire and belltower.

How can we raise £30,000?

5 donations of £2,000	£10,000
10 donations of £1,000	£10,000
10 donations of £500	£5,000
10 donations of £250	£2,500
25 donations of £100	£2,500

TOTAL	£30,000
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Thank you for your continued participation in God's work through our church and for any donation you are able to you give in response to this request.



FAMILY FUN & CHAT

There is no doubt that COVID and the lockdowns changed our lives, both in the short and long term. Many adults and children now struggle to get out and spend quality time away from the TV and electronics devices. Lots of us would like to meet other parents and adults but it's not always easy to get the chance in our busy lives.

Starting 8 September from 6.00pm – 7.30pm, we are going to be opening up the hall once a month for fun, family and friendship. In the main hall there will be badminton, table tennis and occasionally ball games. In the upstairs room you can play air hockey, table football and pool. There are games like giant connect four and Jenga. There will be a play area for the little ones in the worship area next to the foyer and a place for adults to sit and chill with a cup of tea or coffee nearby.

Family Fun Night will be open to all ages and everyone is welcome to join in the activities. We might even start up a league or two as time goes on for those more competitive types!

All that we would ask that anyone under 18 be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Feel free to bring a friend if you like!



ALL SAINTS ANTRIM PRESENTS

Family FUN & CHAT

SUNDAY 8th September
6.00-7.30PM
ALL SAINTS PARISH CENTRE
(NEXT TO ANTRIM LIBRARY)

COME OUT FOR A FAMILY FUN NIGHT!
MEET NEW FRIENDS & HAVE A GREAT TIME!

FUN GAMES TO PLAY - COFFEE AND CHAT
BOARD GAMES - POOL - FOOSBALL - BADMINTON - DARTS AND MORE



Next Steps

YOUTH GROUP (YR8+)
Sunday Nights
7pm-9pm
All Saints Parish Centre

BRING A FRIEND!

Laser Zone + Pizza

- Pool
- Air Hockey
- Games
- Next Steps Cafe

Connor Takes the Castle
A brilliant weekend away

Go Karting

Bowling



A morning of chat and fun!

TOTS 'N' US

Crafts **Toys** **Chat** **Snack**

All Saints Parish Hall
Friday mornings 9.30 - 11am

All Saints Presents BLEND

Food, chat & friendship

LARGE FRY
TEA/COFFEE
£10



UPSTAIRS IN THE TOP OF THE TOWN
10AM 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

ALL SAINTS AND MY FAMILY

In a world where everyone wants to be liked we share God's love!

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11.30-12.45 (ish)

All Saints is a beautiful, historic church in the heart of Antrim. We have a choir, organ and you will hear guitars and trumpet too! There will be an interactive kids talk and action song every Sunday before the kids go to Funday Club. You can pick them up straight after church.

FAMILY SERVICE 11.30AM 3rd Sunday

The family service is an ideal place to dip your toes in and try church out. Relaxed and informal in the hall.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Once a month families can come to the hall to play badminton, pool, darts, table football and loads more activities. Play area for younger kids. Coffee dock is for mums and dads to chill.

-TALENT NIGHTS-

-OUTINGS- -PARISH BREAKFAST-

-ALPHA-

Getting to know Jesus and getting to know each other

ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH

FUNDAY CLUB

**MEETS IN THE PARISH CENTRE
EVERY SUNDAY**

12.00NOON - 12.45PM

We have snacks, games, crafts and lots of fun as we learn about God and his love for us.

On the 3rd Sunday of each month we have family friendly worship in the Parish Centre at 11.30am.

**For P1
and up!**



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

Baptism
Bible
Christ
Creation
Earth
Forever
Garden Of Eden
Genesis
Glory
God

Good News
Heaven
Holy
Israel
Jerusalem
Kingdom
Life
Mary
Message
Moses

Nazareth
Prayer
Resurrection
Revelation
Salvation
Saviour
Sin
Spirit
Temptation
Water

EXODUS MISSION TO VALLS, SPAIN

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Philemon 1:7



Last January Kai, Lauren, Mason and I joined an Exodus Team of 9 other people from St John's Ballyclare which would travel to Valls in Northern Spain to run an English Holiday Bible Club, aimed at children aged between 5 and 13 years old. Our preparation for the trip included bible study and prayer, bible club planning and eating lots of pizza! Our main mission was to share the Gospel with the Spanish children and to help make disciples of their teenage volunteers, enabling them to learn how to run similar events in the future. Our journey began on 19 July flying from Dublin to Salou.



On arrival we took part in a service with over 80 other Exodus team members and many members of the local churches. After some initial orientation with our new team members and learning about the needs of the local communities in Spain we would be working in, we travelled to our accommodation in Vall. We met the leaders and teenagers that would be working with us during our stay. The next morning, Sunday, we attended worship in the

church. A few of us helped out with the singing, and this was followed by a church dinner and concert by an Argentinian Gospel Reggae Band – Las Sandalias.



The holiday bible club began on Monday and for the next 5 days, we would spend 4 hours every morning with a group of 20 children playing games, making crafts and teaching about how Jesus is incredible. We taught the children to recite the Lord's prayer in Spanish and English. As most of the adults and children didn't speak any English, a few of the local teenagers acted as interpreters for us. The temperature ranged between 34 and 38 degrees Celsius and it was a relief to spend the afternoons in our air conditioned apartment before we ventured out to do evening activities with the teenagers from the church. Three of the seven evenings were spent evangelising in the town squares of Tarragona, Valls and Cambrils.



We sang, danced, did face painting, made jewellery and played games with the children. Lauren shared her testimony with the locals and holidaymakers. These evenings were hard work but really great fun, and lasted until about 10pm when it was time for dinner. The pastor of the church, Victor, took us out on excursions on the other nights. Activities included climbing up and down ravines, caving in the mountains and going to the beach. On the second Sunday we all participated in the service with Kai, Lauren and Mason performing a worship song and I shared my journey of faith with the congregation.



Many friendships were made during our stay. During our first day in Salou we were all asked what we were hoping to gain from our mission. My hope was that both the teenagers in our team and those in Spain, along with the children who attended the bible club, would grow in their relationship with God. I'm glad to say that I saw this happen.

I watched Kai, Lauren and Mason and the others grow in confidence in using the gifts that they have, sharing the gospel and spreading laughter and joy throughout their stay, emphasising that being joyful in the Lord refreshes your soul!



HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

This year's Holiday Bible Club was held just before the 2024 Paris Olympic Games took as its theme, The All Stars. We were delighted to welcome back to All Saints' Parish Centre, Chris and Ross who are better known to us as the 'Play it By Ear Theatre Company.'

Each evening began with games which were pitched at the different age groups and helped everyone settle into the evening's activities. Throughout the week the thrust of all the talks and activities was every one of us can be a member of God's team and that God chooses every one to be a team member. No matter how big or small, old or young we are, we all have a special place on his team

We had a themed action song for the week which kicked off the programme each evening. This was followed by a story from the Bible such as Jesus calling his disciples who were a ragged bunch of men with no special training. We looked at how Jesus fed the 5,000, calmed the storm, the story of the unforgiving servant and how Jesus washed his disciples' smelly feet. Chris and Ross were master story tellers and their skills were evident at the follow up sessions where we looked at the meaning of the story in more

depth. The children remembered the message that was central to the story.

The highlight of each night was meeting Sporty Stu, the archetypal American sports star, who was brash, loud and full of his own sporting excellence, but somehow managed each night to fail to live up to his own hype.

The children were then subdivided into two groups and each had a time for games, crafts and one of the most popular segments – snacks of crisps, juice and haribos. Each night concluded with input from our favourite friends Lucy and Bert, learning our memory verse and a closing worship song.

The success of the week and the effectiveness of Play it By Ears' teaching was evidenced by the numbers of the young people who attended. We began on Monday with 29 young people and still had 29 on our last night. Many thanks to Chris and Ross for providing us with a great week's input and to our team of 17 leaders who came each night. We look forward to welcoming Chris and Ross at our Family Service on Sunday 15 September.





THE LEPROSY MISSION

Our Extra Mile Bucket collection is now helping to raise funds for The Leprosy Mission

For most of us, Leprosy is a disease we read about in the Bible, for example where Jesus healed the 10 people who had Leprosy and Naaman, the great general who also had Leprosy was healed by Elisha. However although it is not a disease we will have to deal with in Antrim, Leprosy is still effecting so many throughout the world today.

**5 million people across the world are currently effected by Leprosy.
In 2022 there were 174,087 new cases of the disease.
10,302 of these were children.**

£25 could cure a person suffering from Leprosy

£10 could buy a pair of protective sandals

£15 could buy a self-care kit to care for hands and feet damaged by leprosy

£40 could provide training for a leprosy affected person

Your gift in the Extra Mile Bucket will help transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Whatever you give, you'll be playing a part in bringing hope, healing and health to people affected by leprosy in Asia and Africa. Thank you for your support!

Joanne Briggs, National Director, The Leprosy Mission NI



WHO'S WHO

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Mr Cecil Barton

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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.