

Broadwater Beacon

Aghalee Parish News
Christmas 2022



*Christ the Saviour
is born.*

Dear friends,

The season of Advent is a time of expectation, preparation, and watchfulness as Christian people prepare to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ - remembering his incarnation as the baby of Bethlehem at Christmas, and also looking ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. Falling, as it does, at the darkest time of the year, Advent reminds us that the light of Christ has broken into the darkness of our world.



Advent is always a time of light and hope.

Light and hope may seem to be in short supply at present as our society faces the many social and economic problems of the current times. As energy costs increase and inflation forces the cost of living upwards, we may all have to live a little more simply and be more thankful for the things we have.

As members of the church, we can play our part in bringing light and hope to others through our support of organisations like the local Foodbank or Christians against Poverty; or by giving what we can to Bishops Appeal and other charities; you'll find further information about each of these in this magazine.

You'll also find details of our on-going Heritage Project, and of our Christmas and New Year services, which I hope you will be able to attend during the next few weeks.

If you, or anyone you know, are unable to attend services during the Christmas period, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home - please contact me as soon as possible, to arrange a suitable time.



May God's richest blessing be with you and yours this Christmas season and throughout the new year 2023.

Happy Christmas

Rev Paul McAdam

- CONTACTS -

Rector:

Rev Paul McAdam

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Parish E-mail:

aghaleeparish@gmail.com

Church-wardens:

Sylvia Thompson (07834 543 343)

Roy Hanna (028 9265 1514)

Secretary:

Norman McAlister (028 9265 2587)

Treasurer:

Jennifer Martin (028 9265 1480)



Christmas Services

Sunday 18th Dec.

11am Christingle Family Service

All Ages Welcome



Sunday 18th Dec.

6:30pm Carol Service

a service of readings and carols
with contributions from our choir

Christmas Eve

Saturday 24th Dec.

11:30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

Sunday 25th Dec.

10am Christmas Service

*Children welcome; bring your presents -
we'd love to see what Santa brought you!
Please note that, even though it is a Sunday,
our service will be at the earlier time of 10am
- as usual on Christmas Day!*

New Year's Day

Sunday 1st Jan.

10am Holy Communion

for New Year

*Please note the earlier time
as service is followed by*

11am New Year Walk

along the Broadwater;

then refreshments in the hall.

All welcome - Come dressed for walking!





Pebbles Campbell,
the co-ordinator of
Lisburn Foodbank, writes:

"We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to you, as a congregation. During the harvest period this year, you have donated 72.4kg of food to the Lisburn Foodbank.

These donations are used to make up 3-day emergency food parcels for families facing food poverty. Since the start of the year, we have provided food to 1818 people.

Your continued support is invaluable to us as an organisation, as we rely solely on financial and food donations from the general public as we receive no funding to run the Foodbank.

We continue to pray that God blesses the work of your church and thank you again for supporting our work."

Since that 'Thank-you' letter was received, we have continued to support the work of Lisburn Foodbank; and much more food has been donated through the generosity of our members.

The Foodbank are currently preparing Christmas hampers and have asked each of their supporting churches to provide specific items - we have been asked for tins of custard and gravy granules. However, donations of other items are equally welcome - e.g. UHT milk; sugar; coffee; rice pudding; diluting juice; jam; biscuits; small boxes of washing powder; nappies; washing-up liquid.

Donations can be left in the church hall any Sunday. Thank you for your continuing generosity to the Foodbank.

For info: <https://lisburn.foodbank.org.uk/>

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Christians

Against Poverty

helps those who are facing financial difficulties or debt, struggling to find work or just need a bit of help

budgeting. CAP can provide a home visit, work out a realistic budget to prioritise your essential bills and can negotiate affordable payments with creditors. If you, or anyone you know, face financial problems - contact CAP ...

Ph: 0800 328 0006

Web: capuk.org

... or for CAP NI ...

Email: northernireland@capuk.org

Phone: 028 9527 7964

**Address: 103-113 Ravenhill Road,
Belfast, BT4 2DH**

If you would like to know more; pick up a leaflet from the church hall.



A cup of tea / coffee is available every Sunday before the service - from about 10:15am. Why not come early and enjoy a chat with friends.



**World Day
of Prayer**

Fri 3rd March 2023

Our local service will be held
in Moira Presbyterian Church at 8pm

This year's theme:

***'I have heard about
your faith'***

... prepared by the Christian women of
Taiwan.

Christmas

Charity Appeal

Each year at this time, we appeal for your generosity in aid of BISHOPS APPEAL (the Church of Ireland's world aid and development program) - and other local charities.

Here are just two ways in which Bishops Appeal are using the money donated:

UKRAINE UPDATE: Your donations continue to support our key partners in these ways ...

Christian Aid Ireland utilises the funds to supply hospitals with tens of thousands of medical kits and supplies, as well as providing large shipments of essential items both within Ukraine and to areas of concentrated refugees in neighbouring countries.

Habitat for Humanity Ireland has provided shelter in Poland and Romania, setting up tents with heating and electricity for short term stays and converting unused spaces in towns and cities into homes suitable for stays of approximately 6 months. They are also liaising with local Governments to place people in families, to secure leases and furnish longer term homes

Tearfund Ireland sent 76 shipments of essential food and non-food items to warehouses within Ukraine to support internally displaced people in multiple districts throughout the country. This enabled over 300,000 people meet their basic survival needs.

To date, the Church of Ireland has donated €218,505 and £196,647 through Bishops' Appeal to this humanitarian crisis.

HARVEST HOPE IN TANZANIA: Bishops' Appeal funded a Feed the Minds education and agriculture project that improved the quality of life for 1,776 rural women and their families.

The project established acacia and fig tree nurseries in 12 villages and provided training in environmental management and income generating activities to support the women. 600 women (50 from each village) were trained in organic farming techniques, conservation and drought-resistant crop production. They in turn trained a further 600 women (1,200 in total).

In each village, trained women will form farming groups and establish faidherbia and fig tree nurseries. Within 3 years, it is expected that crop production will increase threefold.

8 women from each village (96 in total) have been trained in goat rearing. Each was provided with a goat and now supply organic manure to women growing faidherbia trees, who in return supply food for the goats.

5 women from each village (60 in total) were trained in the construction of smokeless stoves using locally available materials. Each woman will now support another 3 women in their village to make their own smokeless stoves.

The Select Vestry usually distribute our donations to support Bishops Appeal and other mission societies / local charities. You can place your donations in the envelope provided and hand it in at any service. Or if you can't attend church - drop it in at the rectory, or pass it on to any of our Select Vestry members. Thank you for your generosity!





Heritage Project & Restoration Update



After a lengthy delay due to some problems that arose during the drying out of the interior plaster, we have now moved on to the next stage of the restoration work. The audio-visual equipment is being installed (early December).

After that, industrial cleaners will clean the church thoroughly - and then, carpets will be laid, curtains hung (in the vestry-room) and the remaining fittings installed.

Although these things are the finishing touches, the work will not quite be completed in time for Christmas.


The other major work outstanding is the re-building of the organ - which we hope will take place in January.

We aim to be back in the church as early as possible in the new year (possibly February) and have provisionally set the date for a Dedication Service for Passion Sunday 26th March; details to be confirmed.

Heritage Archive: we continue gathering old photographs of parish events and activities and would be particularly glad to receive photos which pre-date 1980. (Photos will be scanned and returned to their owner.)

Heritage Talks / Information Evenings: There was a great attendance at our first Heritage Evening; when *Brenda Turnbull spoke about the work of the Lagan Navigation Trust*. The next such event (16th Feb tbc) will focus on our church history and the ecclesiastical heritage of our parish in the context of the wider diocese. The speaker will be Prof. Brian Walker, who (amongst other roles) is professor emeritus of Irish Studies at Queen's University.





Heritage Festival

History, Flowers, Costumes

13th - 15th October 2023

Please put this date in your diary and plan to be involved.

A celebration of all aspects of the heritage of our wonderful Parish;
Involving the whole Parish, we hope, and including everything
from flowers, to food, to farming, to the fashions
worn by our ancestors.

Focusing on our close relationship with
the Broadwater and The Lagan Navigation.

Planning meetings are on the last Tuesday of each month;
if you can help us plan for this this event
and other aspects of our Heritage Project,
you would be very welcome to join us.

Help is needed now and everyone will be needed at the time!

We currently need volunteers who could research
old photographs and maps of the area,
as well as historic census information.

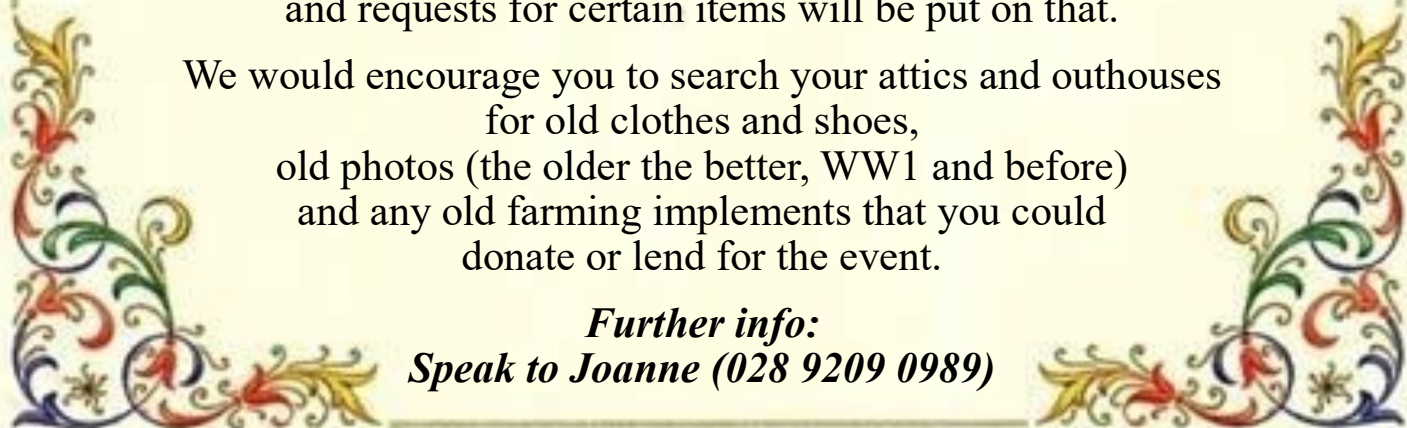
We're also looking for people who may be gifted at making scale models;
or who have a keen eye for planning and design details.

Closer to the time and on the weekend itself,
volunteers will also be needed to help with catering,
setting up, stewarding, etc.

Joanne will be requesting clothing items for a pageant.
A board will be put at the back of the church
and requests for certain items will be put on that.

We would encourage you to search your attics and outhouses
for old clothes and shoes,
old photos (the older the better, WW1 and before)
and any old farming implements that you could
donate or lend for the event.

Further info:
Speak to Joanne (028 9209 0989)



NEW YEAR WALK

Get 2023 off to a great start by joining us for our New Year Walk on New Year's Day.

We leave from the church car park at 11am - walking along the Broadwater towards Aghalee. It's a 'there and back again' route; so you can walk as far and as fast as you like; turning round when you reach the end of the tow-path, or when you meet friends coming the opposite direction - or just whenever you've walked far enough.

Some refreshments will be available in the church hall on return, to warm your hands and hearts.

Since New Year's Day is a Sunday this year - our service will be at the earlier time of 10am; dress-code casual, just come to church suitably dressed for the walk!

***All welcome to the service
or the walk or both.***

MEMORIAL GIFTS

During the course of our Heritage Project, several items have been presented to the parish by generous donors. If anyone else would like to present items, possibly in memory of a loved one or just as a gift - the rector and select vestry have drawn up a 'wish-list' of items that would enhance our church & worship. The list includes a silver baptismal shell; coloured bible markers, some white communion linen; and burses / veils in each of the four liturgical colours (burses/veils are the coloured fabrics used to cover the bread and wine at Holy Communion, see picture). Items are usually bespoke-embroidered with emblems to represent seasons of the church year. Items could be presented individually or as a set. For approximate costs and details, please contact the rector.



From the Parish Registers

Christian Burial

1st Nov Margaret Elizabeth Bunting

2nd Nov Esther Ethelma Newell
(Elma) McClintock

4th Nov Yvonne Brooker

*We offer our sincere condolences
and prayerful sympathy
to all who mourn the loss
of a loved one.*

GFS & CLB

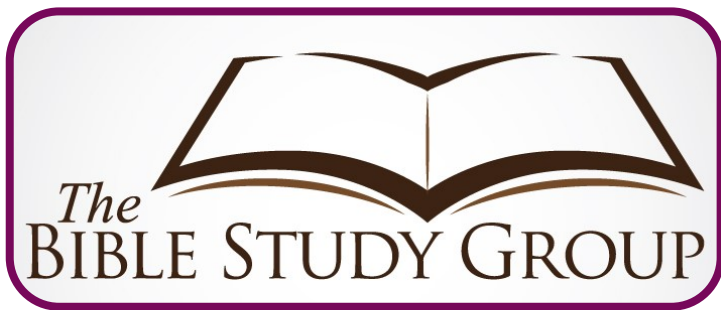
... for girls & boys aged 4+

both meet on Mondays 7-8:15pm,
separately in the church halls.

Christmas parties will be held on Monday
12th December - non-uniform night.

Then, after our Christmas break, GFS & CLB
both begin again on Monday 9th January.

New girls & boys always welcome!



The midweek fellowship / Bible Study Group have just completed a 7-week course entitled '**Real Prayer**'. We'll be taking a prolonged Christmas break, but Bible Study will begin again on **Wednesday 25th January**.

Also, a midweek course or services for Lent will begin on **Ash Wednesday 22nd February**.

(All details to be confirmed later).

The venue is the Parochial Hall; opposite Graham's Chip Shop in Aghalee.

Everyone is welcome.

Help Needed ...

to tidy up the churchyard & grounds; Sat 10th Dec from 10am; please bring a brush, rake, shovel, gloves etc - and help us to tidy up the church grounds for winter

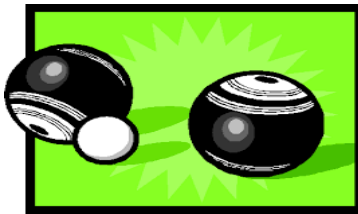


The Select Vestry wish to remind everyone that maintenance of individual graves is the responsibility of the family concerned.

We would further remind you that it is essential to abide by the District Council's recycling policy. If you are placing wreaths or flowers etc on graves at Christmas; please remember in the New Year to remove them before they deteriorate.

Please dispose of dead flowers / spoilt wreaths etc in the correct coloured bin - see the notice clearly displayed beside the bins at the church gate.

**Thank you for
your co-operation.**



Soldierstown Bowling Club

The bowling club meets each Wednesday evening at 8pm in the main church hall (except when there's an away match). Anyone interested in bowling will be made most welcome. The club plays in the Lisburn Zone league; and while the hall is being used for church services, all matches are being played 'away'.



SOLDIERSTOWN TOTS

... meets Mondays 10:30-12noon in the Youth Hall; for pre-school children and their grown-ups. Contact Ina Watson - 07759404964.



New toys and games have been popular with our wee ones on Monday mornings. We look forward to Christmas fun at our party soon. New friends are very welcome.





THANK YOU!

The rector and select vestry would like to thank everyone who subscribes to parish funds. Your on-going generosity is very much appreciated.

Please continue to give generously to the work of God's kingdom!

FREE-WILL OFFERING SCHEME:

All adult members / parishioners are encouraged to contribute to parish funds, by subscribing through the Free-Will Offering scheme. We reserve the right to remove from the parish list, those who neither attend nor subscribe to parish funds.

ENVELOPES FOR 2023:

Envelopes are being distributed with this magazine (except for some, whose magazine has been posted to them - envelopes can be collected from church; please ask a family member or friend to pick them up for you).

NEW SUBSCRIBERS:

If you do not yet have a set of envelopes and would like a set for next year, please contact us. Alternatively, you can contribute by Standing Order or bank transfer..

GIFT AID:

If you are a tax-payer, you can 'Gift-Aid' your Free-Will Offering. This means that for every £1 you give, the parish can claim back an extra 25p—and it costs you nothing extra.



If you have not already done so, please contact us about signing a Gift Aid Declaration form.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR:

Your contributions are always appreciated no matter when they are received. However, please note that only those contributions received before the end of the financial year (31st Dec) can appear in the accounts for the year. Please ensure that your giving for 2022 is completed by Sunday 18th Dec if possible, and by Christmas Day at the latest.

Any 2022 envelopes received after that date, cannot be included in the accounts for the current year; and will not appear in the financial report, printed next April.

Any contributions received after that date will be included in the accounts for the following year (2023), even if they come in 2022 envelopes.

To avoid confusion or offence - please do not hand in 2022 envelopes in January! Instead, use only your new set of 2023 envelopes from 1st Jan. onwards.

STANDING ORDERS / ELECTRONIC BANKING:

To make things easier, we would encourage subscribers to set up a Standing Order for on-going regular donations.

You can also use electronic banking to make a one-off bank transfer to the parish account.

Our treasurer, Jennifer Martin, can provide you with the details of how to do this. (Phone 028 9265 1480 or email jenny5@btinternet.com).

MEMBERSHIP & GDPR

(General Data Protection Regulations)

The Church of Ireland generally adopts an 'inclusive' rather than an 'exclusive' approach to membership. In other words:

- Anyone is welcome to attend our church services and events or to join our parish organisations.
- No-one who seeks the ministry or pastoral care of the church will ever be turned away.

However, for practical reasons, most parishes and clergy also keep a pastoral list of 'members'; and two things can reasonably be expected of parish members:

- that members attend church regularly, if able to do so; and
- that members should subscribe to parish funds through the parish Free-Will Offering scheme (FWO).

It is the rector's practice to keep a pastoral list, including the names and addresses of those who attend and/or subscribe.

This list is revised annually in January - and, in compliance with GDPR, **the details of those who neither attend regularly nor subscribe will be removed from the parish list** (since, under GDPR, such information should not be retained when there is no legitimate interest for doing so).

In effect, the details of those who neither attend nor subscribe will be removed from the list; and they will no longer be considered 'members' of the parish.

Those who subscribe will automatically be included. If you have any queries - please speak to the rector.

Full details about the parish GDPR policy or 'Access to Information', are available on request from the rector or vestry secretary.

General Vestry

Register

The General Vestry Register for Aghalee parish will be revised during the month of February.

Please note -

this is different from the list of members mentioned opposite.

The General Vestry Register is the list of those who are eligible to vote at any general vestry meeting of the parish.

Every adult member (18+) of the parish, who subscribes to parish funds should be registered on the General Vestry list.



The list of existing General Vestry members of the parish will be displayed in the church (or hall) during February; please check that your name appears on that list.

Anyone who wishes to register, and who has not already signed the General Vestry Declaration, should speak to the rector or wardens by February.

Services for Dec 2022 - Feb 2023

4/12/22	Advent 2	Holy Communion
11/12/22	Advent 3	Morning Prayer
18/12/22	Advent 4	11am Christingle Family Service 6:30pm Carol Service
24/12/22	Christmas Eve	11:30pm Midnight Communion
25/12/22	Christmas Day	10am Christmas Service
1/1/23	(New Year's Day)	10am Holy Communion for New Year - followed by our New Year walk
8/1/23	Epiphany 1	Morning Prayer
15/1/23	Epiphany 2	Morning Prayer
22/1/23	Epiphany 3	Morning Prayer
29/1/23	Epiphany 4	Morning Prayer
5/2/23	3rd before Lent	Holy Communion
12/2/23	2nd before Lent	Morning Prayer
19/2/23	Sunday before Lent	Morning Prayer
22/2/23	Ash Wednesday	8pm Ash Wednesday Service - in the Parochial Hall (tbc)
26/2/23	Lent 1	Morning Prayer

All Services - Sunday @ 11am (unless stated otherwise)
Our online service is available on Youtube each Sunday.
All are welcome to worship with us.

If we are able to move back into the church before the start of Lent, the services may be adjusted accordingly; please see the Sunday notices and Facebook page for details nearer the time.



Follow us on Facebook:
@AghaleeParish
for all the latest parish info.

Beacon Distribution

Broadwater Beacon is distributed to every household listed as members/subscribers of Aghalee Parish - your name should be on a sticker on the front cover. If you did not receive a named copy, then your household may not be on the parish list. Please let the rector know about any changes needed to the parish records; so that our list of parishioners / subscribers can be updated.

Notes for next magazine should be with the rector by Sunday 12th February 2023.