

Broadwater Beacon

Aghalee Parish News
Christmas 2023



Aghalee Parish News

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Church-wardens:

John Watson (028 9261 1279) Joy Frazer (07713829627)

Secretary:

Norman McAlister (028 9265 2587)

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Reid (07974 821303)

Dear friends,

Advent is the season of the Christian year which reminds us of Christ's promise to return to receive those who trust in Him. Christians are called to live at all times in a sense of expectation for Christ's return—with hearts prepared to meet him. In that sense, Advent has to do with 'end-times'.



However, Advent is also a time of new beginnings. It marks the start of a new cycle in the Christian calendar. Advent Sunday (the 4th Sunday before Christmas) is the church's New Year's Day! Keeping Advent as the start of our church year reminds us we should always be ready to meet our coming King, the Lord Jesus.

As a new church year begins, I hope you will be able to join us for our services throughout Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and into the start of Lent. You'll find details of all those services and other events in this parish magazine.

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.

From the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

1st Oct: Dawson Charles Annett
son of Zoe & Aaron

8th Oct: Ellie Adele White
daughter of Lynsey & Shane

Christian Burial

11th July - Margaret McDonald

6th Sept - Jacob Hull

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

Happy Christmas

Rev Paul McAdam

Bishops Appeal is the Church of Ireland's world aid and development program; and every year it helps thousands of people through many charities and projects around the world.

During the Christmas period, we would encourage you to support Bishops Appeal. If you would like to make a donation - please use the enclosed envelope and place your donation on the plate at any service.





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent 3

Sunday 17th Dec.

11am Morning Prayer



6:30pm Carol Service

a service of readings and carols
with contributions from our choir;
followed by refreshments
in the Youth Hall.

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th Dec.

11am Christingle Family Service

All Ages Welcome



11:30pm Midnight Communion

All Welcome!

Christmas Day

Monday 25th Dec.

10am Christmas Service

*Children welcome; bring your
presents -
we'd love to see what Santa
brought you!*

New Year's Eve

Sunday 31st Dec

11am Morning Service

at the usual time

Aghalee Parish Heritage Project

Book & Website Launch

Tues 5th Dec, from 7:30pm
in Soldierstown Church Hall



As part of our on-going Heritage Project, we are publishing a book entitled '**Soldiers, Sailors, Saints and Spinners**' and also developing a new parish website. A special event to launch both of these will be held in the Church Hall on Tuesday 5th December; with refreshments served from 7:30pm. The book will be available to everyone who attends on the evening, and then later distributed to other households in the parish.



The book and website have been made possible with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we have restored our church and engaged more people with our local heritage.

There is no charge for this book, as costs are met through the Heritage Fund grant. It is intended to give each household two copies - one to keep and one to give away. However, extra copies will be available on request.

The aim of the book is to enable us to share our heritage with others - so copies will also be distributed to other local churches, community groups, schools etc.

The website will contain information about our parish, past and present; with lots of photos and articles about our history and our heritage, as well as information about our services and organisations. It will, in future, also be the place where you can check the parish diary with all the details of regular activities and special forthcoming events.

We hope you can join us on this very special occasion for the launch of the book and website.

If you plan to attend the launch event, or to request extra copies of the book - please sign the sheet in the church porch by Sunday 3rd Dec ... or contact our Select Vestry Secretary, Norman McAlister:

Ph: 028 9265 2587 or email aghaleeparish@gmail.com



Our new website will be available shortly, at ...

www.aghalee.dromore.anglican.org

... or scan the QR code.





Just a few wee reminders of our Heritage Festival.

There will be many more pictures in the Heritage Book and on our new website.

Thank you to everyone who made it such a wonderful event





Our parish choir pictured following the service on Remembrance Sunday; thank you to Vivien, Stephen and all choir members for their musical contribution to our worship each Sunday.

Flower Rota



Thanks to Anne Lavery for co-ordinating the flower rota. If you would be willing to provide flowers for the church—please speak to Anne. The full list is on the notice-board in the church porch.

December:

- 3rd - available
- 10th - available
- 17th - Diane Mathers
- 24th - Christmas
- 31st - “

January:

- 7th - available
- 14th - available
- 21st - Wendy Malcomson
- 28th - available

February:

- 4th - Freda McLorn
- 11th - Sandra McLorn
- 18th - Emily Montgomery
- 25th - Evelyn Briggs



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 1st March 2024

Our local service will be held in Magheralin Parish Church at 8pm

This year's theme:

'Bear with one another in love'

... prepared by the Christian women of ***Palestine.***



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 2024:

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 which are lodged BEFORE the end of the financial year (31st Dec) can appear in the accounts for the year. Please ensure that your giving for 2023 is completed by Sunday 24th Dec.

Please note - any 2023 envelopes received on Sunday 31st Dec or later will be lodged in 2024 and cannot be included in the accounts for the current year (i.e. they will not appear in the financial report, printed next April).

Any contributions received after Christmas will be included in the accounts for 2024.

To avoid confusion or offence - please do not hand in 2023 envelopes in January! Instead, use only your new set of 2024 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, Elizabeth Reid, can provide you with the details of how to do this.

(Phone 07974 821303
or email aghaleeparish@gmail.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 remain on our membership list. 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 at a Select Vestry meeting on Tuesday 6th February.

Please note - the General Vestry register 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 porch during the weeks before the revision; please check that your name appears on that list.

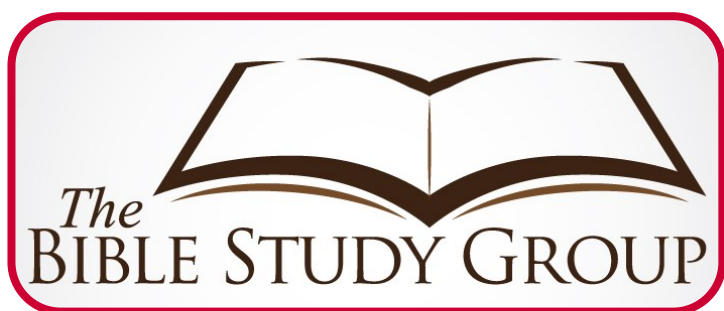
Anyone who wishes to register, and who has not already signed the General Vestry declaration form, should speak to the rector or churchwardens during January.

LADIES' Fellowship



Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas from the Ladies Fellowship. Thank you, Anne, for demonstrating a Christmas wreath to the ladies.

Saturday 20th January 2024—meeting at Vic Ryn for coffee 10am.



The midweek fellowship / Bible Study & Prayer Group are currently following a book entitled '**Love your church**'. We'll be taking a prolonged Christmas break, but Bible Study will begin again on **Wednesday 10th January**.

Also, a midweek course or services for Lent will begin on **Ash Wednesday 14th February**.

(All details to be confirmed later).

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

Everyone is welcome.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Our Mothers' Union continues to meet monthly for food and fellowship which we all look forward to and enjoy.

Helen and Elaine recently took some knitted blankets to Lisadian Nursing Home and they were very much appreciated- especially at this time of the year.

We will be attending the annual Diocesan Advent Carol Service on Monday 4th December at Knockbreda Parish Church. To keep up with tradition we will be having a Christmas dinner before the service.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.



The Men's Group is a new addition to our parish activities—and has been meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 10:30am in the Youth Hall. All men welcome—speak to Harold Giboney of Donald Frazer for details.



Family Care
Adoption Services



Family Care Adoption Services is an Adoption Agency, and a core part of our work is to place children with new adoptive families. We provide adoption services throughout all Northern Ireland and work with Health and Social Care Trusts to place single children and sibling groups for adoption.

These children are aged from babyhood to approximately 5 years old.

There are currently more children waiting to be adopted in Northern Ireland than families approved to adopt and there is an urgent need for new families to come forward.

All sorts of people from all walks of life can be considered for adoption.

So, wherever you live in Northern Ireland if you think you could offer a child/ren a new life in a family of their own and would like an informal chat to discuss this and to find out more about adoption - contact us ...

Thank you to everyone who have been taking part in the Foodbank's 'Reverse Advent Calendar' project, or donating tins of custard and gravy granules towards the Christmas Hamper appeal. The foodbank volunteers will be delivering those Christmas hampers during the week beginning Sunday 3rd December, so the Christmas appeals close by that date. However, general donations to the foodbank can always be left in the church porch on any Sunday. Thank you for your continuing generosity to the Foodbank.

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



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 porch.

Family Care
Adoption Services

Kate McGowan
Communications & Engagement Co-Ordinator

☎ 028 9069 1133
🌐 www.familycareadoption.com
✉ kate.mcgowan@familycareadoption.org
📍 97 Malone Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6EQ



SOLDIERSTOWN TOTS

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

On Monday 18th December, the Tots are looking forward to a Christmas party and a visit from Santa.

After the Christmas break, the Tots group begins again on Monday 8th January. New members awelcome.

Contact Ina Watson - 07759404964.



Get 2024 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.

All welcome!

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 11th December - non-uniform night.

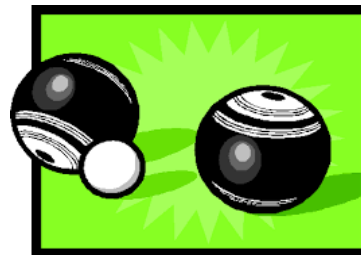
Then, after our Christmas break, both GFS & CLB begin again on Monday 8th January.

New girls & boys always welcome!

On Friday 24th Nov, the girls enjoyed a sleepover in the Youth Hall.

The boys have been learning about the solar system and doing some star-gazing recently, as part of their Astronomy badgework - ***The heavens declare the glory of God! (Psalm 19:1)***

On Saturday 2nd December, the girls will be going to Magheralin Parish to take part in the diocesan competitions for cookery and choral speaking.



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.

Services for Dec 2023 - Feb 2024

3/12/22	Advent 1	Holy Communion
10/12/22	Advent 2	Morning Prayer
17/12/22	Advent 3	11am Morning Prayer 6:30pm Carol Service
24/12/22	Christmas Eve	11am Christingle Family Service 11:30pm Midnight Communion
25/12/22	Christmas Day	10am Christmas Service
31/12/23	Christmas 1 (New Year's Eve)	11am Morning Prayer
7/1/24	Epiphany 1	Holy Communion
14/1/23	Epiphany 2	Morning Prayer
21/1/23	Epiphany 3	Morning Prayer
28/1/23	Epiphany 4 - The Presentation of Christ	Morning Prayer
4/2/23	2nd before Lent	Holy Communion
11/2/23	Sunday before Lent	Morning Prayer
14/2/23	Ash Wednesday	8pm Ash Wednesday Service - in the Parochial Hall (tbc)
18/2/23	Lent 1	Morning Prayer
25/2/23	Lent 2	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.

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.



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for all the latest parish in-

Notes for next magazine should be with the rector by Sunday 18th February 2024.