

BROADWATER BEACON

Aghalee Parish News

Mar- May / Easter 2024

He is Risen!



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please note - other, older email addresses are no longer in use



Dear friends,

The philosopher Bernard Williams once said:

***The day the Lord created hope
was probably the same day he created Spring.***

Entering into the season of spring always lifts our spirits and gives us that feeling of hope as the weather becomes milder (hopefully!) and we see the flowers and trees beginning to bud, bloom and grow - a sign of new life!

During Lent, the theme of our midweek fellowship reminds us that, no matter what difficulties and struggles we may face in life, we can turn to God who always gives His people hope.

Then, as Lent leads on to Easter, we are reminded once again that, for Christian people, the greatest hope comes through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus - with the good news that Christ is risen to be with us by His Spirit today!

In this magazine you'll find the details of our services and events for Lent, Easter - and right through to Pentecost. I hope you'll be able to join us as we worship God together during the coming season.

Rev Paul McAdam

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- Romans 15:13 -



Lent Midweek Fellowship

Each Wednesday during Lent, our mid-week Bible Study & Fellowship group have been following a course from the Bible Society.

Daring to Hope is a five-part journey that follows the words and cries of some of the Bible's most famous individual laments. Journeying deeply into the Psalms and various other biblical passages, to encounter and practically explore what lament is and how we too can lament, through the four elements present in passages such as Psalm 13:

- Turning to God
- Permission to protest/complain
- Boldly crying out: "HELP"
- Daring to (Trust) Hope

Each Wednesday evening

8pm in the Parochial Hall, Aghalee

All Welcome



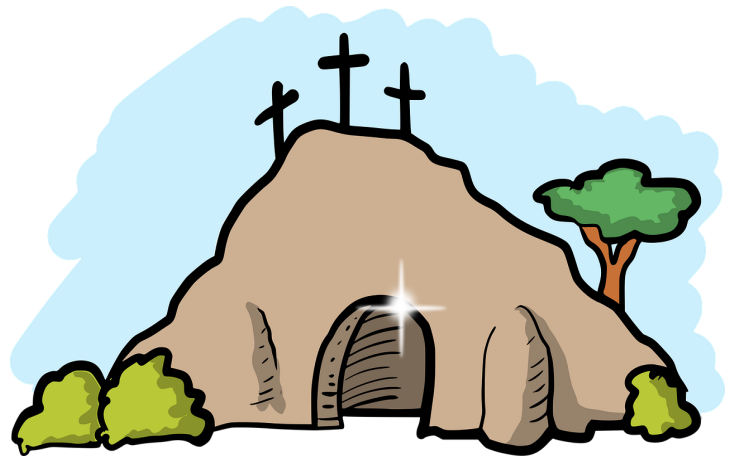
Holy Week

Palm Sunday, 24th March
11am All Age Service

Holy Wednesday, 27th March
8pm Praise & Prayer
in the Parochial Hall, Aghalee
concluding our Lent Series,
'Daring to Hope'

Maundy Thursday, 28th March
7:30pm Holy Communion
in the church

Good Friday, 29th March
7:30pm Good Friday Service
including Tenebrae
in the Church



EASTER SUNDAY

11am Easter Service

*a family-oriented service
including Holy Communion
as we celebrate
Christ's resurrection.*

All welcome.

Mother's Day

Sunday 10th March, 11am

An All-Age Family Service

We especially encourage any families
with babies & primary-aged
children to attend.

All welcome

Christ
is
Risen!



Pictured above: The girls of the GFS and the boys of the CLB recently took part in their enrolment service; the first time we have been able to do so in three years - since before the Covid-19 pandemic.

GFS & CLB will take a short break over the Easter holidays, and then resume for a couple of weeks. Our year will draw to a close with

Parents Night on Friday 19th April.



Tots meets on Mondays, 10:30am—12noon in the Youth Hall, Soldierstown; all welcome.

However, there will be no Tots on Easter Monday, 1st April.

After Easter, Tots will meet for just two more weeks, —8th & 15th April before rounding off their year.

Thank you to Ina and the great team of volunteers.



G.F.S. Big Breakfast



**Girls Friendly Society &
Church Lads' Brigade**

PARENTS NIGHT

**Friday 19th April
7:30pm**

**Entrance:
Adults £3; Children £1**

**Proceeds to
GFS/CLB funds**

All Welcome

Saturday 9th March 2024

9.00am – 12.00noon

in Soldierstown Church Hall

Cost : Adult : £7.00 Child : £3.00

**Please come along and bring your
friends for breakfast and chat.**

All Welcome

As another year draws to a close for our uniformed organisations ...

Thank You! ... to all leaders and helpers.



*Lots of fun & games—plus celebrating
Georgie's birthday at Soldierstown Tots.*

ANNUAL GENERAL VESTRY MEETING

**Our AGVM will be held on
Tues. 9th April, 7:30pm
- in the Church Hall.**

**for presentation of the annual
financial statement
and the election of
church-wardens & select vestry.**



LADIES' Fellowship

January 2024 - ladies met for coffee at Vic Ryn. A lovely morning to catch up with everyone.



Enjoying coffee at Vic-Ryn



Left: John & Ina Watson in Kuala Lumpur

February meeting - we welcomed John & Ina Watson from our Parish, speaking on their trip to Kuala Lumpur (capital of Malaysia). It was a very interesting evening viewing beautiful colourful photos & hearing from their experiences.

Helen Reddick (hairstylist) will speak at March meeting - Tuesday 19th March, 7;30pm tbc.



Thanks to your generosity, we were able to donate ~£460 to Bishops Appeal, the Church of Ireland Emergency & World Development Fund.

Thank you to all who donated to this appeal during the Christmas season

Aghalee Parish



The Men's Group meets on the last Wednesday morning of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th March - an outing is proposed to Brownlow House.

Please speak to Harold Giboney or Donald Frazer for more details.



Heritage Project

In early December, we hosted a special evening to launch our Heritage Book and website.

Pictured at this recent event are L-R Jonathan Higgins (ConceptNI, web design); Jo-Ann Smyth (Evolution Graphic Design Service) who designed the book for us; Mukesh Sharma (chair of the NI National Lottery Heritage Fund) and Rev Paul.

Thanks to grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund we have been able to create a website hosting a wide range of information and photographs about the heritage of Aghalee Parish and to publish the book 'Soldiers, Sailors, Saints & Spinners' telling the story of our history from pre-Christian times until present day.

Every home in the parish should have received two copies of the book (one to keep and one to give away); if you did not receive yours, please contact us. We also gave away hundreds of copies to other churches, community groups and friends of the parish.

The response and demand has been phenomenal and we have now given away almost all 2000 copies ... however, funding permitting, it is hoped to have more copies of the book printed in the near future.



Our next Heritage event will be ...



THE LIFE & ART OF SIR JOHN LAVERY

A talk by

Rev Jim Campbell

in Holy Trinity, Soldierstown

on Tues 12th March

at 7:30pm



Our new website can be found at ...

www.aghalee.dromore.anglican.org

... or scan the QR code.





St Patrick's Day Celebrations

'Light the Beacons'

'Light the Beacons' is the theme for this year's annual St Patrick's Day festival which will focus on praying for a rekindling of the fire of faith that Patrick lit in Ireland almost 1600 years ago.

The diocesan celebrations will take place on Saturday 16 March and then special prayer services will be held in parishes across the diocese on Sunday 17 March.

Our guest preacher at the Diocesan Festival Service (Sat 16th March, 11.45am in Down Cathedral) will be the Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff, Bishop of Lancaster.

Bishop David says: "Bishop Jill's scholarly and yet deeply spiritual insights into the lives of the saints including St Patrick (see her book *Lighting the Beacons: Kindling the Flame of Faith in our Hearts*). means she is the ideal person to encourage us to pray as a diocese for rekindling of the fire of faith that Patrick lit in Ireland almost 1600 years ago.

"In 433AD in defiance of the pagan king, Laoise, Patrick lit a Paschal fire to celebrate Easter. It was said that if that Paschal fire was not put out on that day it would never be extinguished. Almost 1600 years later the fire of the gospel has not been put out but needs fanned into flame in Ireland again."

Bishop David will light a symbolic fire at the end of the Festival Service and a representative from each church in the diocese will take a torch and a container of concentrated paraffin oil back to their parish. Then, on St Patrick's Day, every church in the diocese, will hold a special service of prayer for revival. With beacons lit, we'll be asking God to light the fire of the gospel in Ireland and in that local church context once again.

PROGRAMME FOR DIOCESAN EVENT (Sat 16th March at Saul / Downpatrick)

9.15am: Holy Communion at Saul

10.15am: Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick

11.45am: Festival Service in Down Cathedral with Bishop Jill Duff

Wreath laying ceremony at St Patrick's Grave and lighting of beacon

1.00pm: Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'

At the end of our St Patrick's Day service in Aghalee, we will light a small symbolic beacon. Everyone is then invited to stay for a soup lunch in the church hall. (Please sign the list in the church porch to help us estimate numbers for catering)

In the afternoon / evening, the choir & rector will be travelling to take part in a service in Gartree Parish.



Revised Graveyard Rules & Fees

The rules and fees for our parish graveyard are set in line with the recommendations of Down & Dromore Diocesan Council.

The full details are available on request from the rector or graveyard warden, Mr John Watson. The following is a summary of rules and fees which currently apply ...



ALLOCATION OF INTERMENT SPACES

Burial Space - Size: 8ft x 4ft / 2.4 metres x 1.2 metre

Fee for allocation and registration of each new space:

To be paid by bona-fide *subscribing parishioner £450
To be paid by a *non-parishioner or non-subscriber £1000

Re-Allocation / Duplicate Papers: Where an individual wishes to transfer the allocation of a grave space, an application must be made to the clergy and churchwardens . **An administration fee of £40 applies for endorsement or duplication of papers.**

CHARGES FOR PERMISSION TO ERECT HEADSTONE AND SURROUNDS:

Headstone only:

To be paid by a *subscribing parishioner £50
To be paid by a *non-parishioner / non-subscriber £150

Surrounds (including headstones)

To be paid by a *subscribing parishioner £100
To be paid by a *non-parishioner / non-subscriber £350

N.B.: Surrounds are not permitted in the new section of the graveyard.

CHARGES FOR OPENING INTERMENT SPACE

To be paid by a *subscribing parishioner £100
To be paid by a *non-parishioner / non-subscriber £250 - £500

... the latter consists of £250 opening fee plus an additional 'churchyard maintenance fee' of £50 per year since last subscription / last opening; to a maximum of 5 years / £500 total fee).

FOR INTERMENT OF ASHES IN EXISTING GRAVE

To be paid by a *subscribing parishioner £50
To be paid by a *non-parishioner / non-subscriber £100 - £150
... may include £10 p.a. 'churchyard maintenance fee' (similar to opening fees, see above)

N.B. payment to the gravedigger is in addition to above and should be arranged separately.

**'Subscribing parishioners' are understood to be those who subscribe to parish funds in such a manner that a receipt could be given for the past financial year; or subscriptions identified in the most recent Annual Financial Report.*

MAINTENANCE OF GRAVES: *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. Please dispose of dead flowers / spoilt wreaths etc in the correct coloured bin - see the notice beside the church gate.*



Choir Dinner

Our choir members recently enjoyed their annual dinner at Lurgan Golf Club.

The choir were also able to celebrate a special birthday for one of our members—
Georgie Lavery.

We would never mention a lady's age ... but the cake might give you a clue.

Congratulations & happy birthday, Georgie!

From the Parish Registers

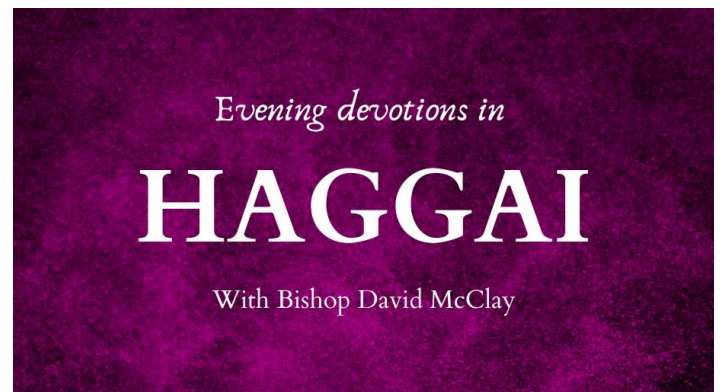
Holy Baptism

29th Dec Bella Joanna Davis
- daughter of Caroline & Jack Nedza

Christian Burial

27th Dec Doris Elizabeth Montgomery
19th Jan Thomas Howard Uprichard
24th Jan William Grant Gilkinson

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



Daily Devotions for Lent

During the season of Lent, the diocese is providing a series of daily devotional videos. Bishop David McClay has filmed forty devotionals for Lent that take a fresh look at the book of Haggai and the lessons that will shape our living. The videos will be shared each day on our parish Facebook page or -

www.youtube.com/@DownDromoreVideo



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



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.



Private Communion

During the weeks before Easter, the rector will share Holy Communion at home with those who are genuinely unable to attend church.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Communion in your own home please contact the rector as soon as possible, to arrange a suitable time.

Phone: 92090989

March:

3rd - Mrs E. Montgomery
10th - *Mothering Sunday*
17th - Mrs J. Todd
24th -
31st - Easter Sunday

April:

7th -
14th - Mrs J. Lewis
21st - Mrs A. Hendron
28th - Mrs H. Laird

May:

5th -
12th - Miss E. Reid
19th -
26th - Mrs M. Donaghey



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 the Magazine

should be with the rector by

Sunday 19th May.

This magazine is produced quarterly, for Mar/June/Sep/Dec. However, details may change or may not be available so far in advance —so please see the weekly notices and our parish Facebook page for updated information.

Services for March - May 2024

3/3/24	Lent 3	Holy Communion
10/3/24	Lent 4: Mothering Sunday	All-Age Family Service
17/3/24	Lent 5: St Patrick's Day	Morning Prayer & Lighting the Beacon & Soup-Lunch
24/3/24	Lent 6: Palm Sunday	Morning Prayer for the start of Holy Week
31/3/24	Easter Sunday	Family oriented service including Holy Communion
7/4/24	2nd of Easter	Morning Prayer
14/4/24	3rd of Easter	Morning Prayer
21/4/24	4th of Easter	Morning Prayer
28/4/24	5th of Easter	Service of Favourite Hymns (tbc)
5/5/24	6th of Easter: Rogation Sunday	Holy Communion
12/5/24	7th of Easter: Sunday after Ascension	Morning Prayer
19/5/24	Pentecost	All-Age Family Service for The Birthday of the Church (tbc)
26/5/24	Trinity Sunday	Morning Prayer

All Services - Sunday @ 11am (unless stated otherwise)

All are welcome to worship with us.



Unable to get to church?

Did you know—our service is streamed online most Sundays; you can watch the service on our parish Youtube channel at 11am on Sunday morning, or catch up on it later, or re-visit recent services -

www.youtube.com/@aghaleeparish6582

Of course—we would rather welcome you to church in-person!