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**Aghalee  
Parish  
News**

**Christmas /  
Dec '25 —  
Feb '26**

**Rector: Rev Paul McAdam**

39 Soldierstown Rd, Aghalee, BT67 0ES Ph: 028 92 09 09 89

**Church-wardens:**

Hilary Wilson (07872 070517) Roy Hanna (07563 639691)

**Secretary:**

**Treasurer:**

Norman McAlister (028 9265 2587) Elizabeth Reid (07974 821303)

**Parish E-mail:** aghaleeparish@gmail.com

*Dear friends,*

Advent and Christmas brings a season of light and hope as we wait for and celebrate the coming of Christ. This will be reflected in our Sunday morning services, as we light the Advent candles ... and then in our Nativity and Carol services as we celebrate the birth of Christ, our Saviour.



***The light of Christ has come into the world!***

As we celebrate Christ's coming into the world, I hope you will join in with our services and events during the coming weeks - and I would really encourage you to make a special effort to invite others along with you. May the light and hope of Christ shine in your hearts and homes throughout Advent and Christmas and into the New Year.

*Yours in Christ*

*Rev Paul McAdam*

*Coffee, Cake  
& Carols*

*Sun. 14th Dec, 3:15pm  
Parochial Hall, Aghalee*

*All Welcome*



Just a relaxed afternoon to enjoy a chat over a cuppa, sing a few carols and get in the Christmas mood.

Spread the word and invite friends - especially any who wouldn't normally attend church -

All welcome to our afternoon of Coffee, Cake & Carols.



# Christmas Services

**Sunday 21st Dec.**

**11am Christmas Family Service**

**All Ages Welcome**



*In this service, we hope to have a short simple Nativity involving the Sunday School. Please come wearing your Christmas jumper!*



**Sunday 21st Dec.**

**6:30pm Carols by Candlelight**

a candle-lit service

of readings and carols

with contributions from our choir.

**Christmas Eve**

**Wednesday 24th Dec.**

**11:30pm Midnight Communion**

**Christmas Day**

**Thursday 25th Dec.**

**10am Christmas Service**

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



*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 Rev Paul as soon as possible, to arrange a suitable time.*





# One year to go until our Christmas Festival!

... and preparations are well underway!

Why the name '**SNAP**'? ... apart from spelling out 'Scenes & Nativity @ Aghalee Parish' ... it describes the main idea - that you should bring your camera and 'put yourself in the picture'.

The church hall will reflect all the razzmatazz of Christmas - you can take a selfie with the characters or step into scenes from panto, theatre, film and book ... from Narnia to Scrooge, Cinderella to Frozen - you may even meet a panto dame!

In the church you may bump into a shepherd or an angel, be surprised to find a wise-man, and visit Mary & Joseph in the stable ... as we depict the Nativity story and focus on the baby of Bethlehem - the true meaning of Christmas.



Then, you can enjoy hot chocolate and cookies in our Christmas Café (Youth Hall).

**Help will be needed in many ways** ... if you are gifted at **woodwork, knitting or sewing**, Joanne will have a project for you - so please volunteer!

If you're buying a new **Christmas tree or lights** this year ... would you consider donating the old ones to us? Or, while you're browsing the Christmas shops at the minute - if you would like to contribute a bag of **fake snow** or a small set of **battery lights (white)**, that would be much appreciated!

**Fittings for costumes** will begin in the New Year; please be ready to volunteer!

And we'll soon be looking for volunteers for painting, glueing and other craft-work; you don't need to be artistic - instructions will be provided.

Thank you to all those who are storing items in their spare-rooms and cupboards!

We're still asking for donations of **paint - old tester pots and tubes** which may have been discarded; and we're collecting **2L plastic milk bottles** ( please wash them out, remove labels and keep the lid on).

Items can be left in the church porch or hall at any time.

**For all queries or offers of help - please phone/text Joanne on 07927 660 475**

# Aghalee Parish Heritage Project

During September, a final coat of specialist paint was applied to the church interior - the last remaining work to be completed as part of our recent Heritage Project.

We are now in the process of finalizing the project, although certain aspects of it will continue into the future - like transferring our parish records to computer, maintaining our newly restored church building and continuing to promote our Christian heritage, as a means of sharing our faith.



Thanks to  
National Lottery players

There is, of course, paperwork and administration to complete in order to round off the project and claim the remaining Heritage grant. The Select Vestry are preparing the final 'Spending Report' for the Heritage Fund - and a 'Completion Report', which details all that has been achieved through the project. We are also required to have an 'Evaluation Report' carried out by an external consultant - and the Select Vestry are engaging Diane Ruddock (former External Affairs Manager, National Trust) to do this for us.

We are endeavouring to complete this work by the end of the year.

The above are just a few examples of the huge amount of work that has gone on behind the scenes during the last seven years - all carried out by volunteers and often unseen by the majority of our parishioners.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to our Select Vestry, especially the key members of the Heritage Project team ... and to all who have helped in any way throughout the course of Aghalee Parish Heritage Project.



## Church Repairs & Maintenance:



*This wee Penguin is getting ready for our Christmas Festival ... but a few of his mates still need a hat!*

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the renovation of the Youth Hall has taken much longer than anticipated. We apologise for the inconvenience to our parish organisations - and thank everyone for bearing with us patiently. The Select Vestry are doing their best to ensure that work is completed as soon as possible - and that the youth hall will be in use again by the new year!



# 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*



## 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 2026:

Envelopes are being distributed with this magazine (except for some whose magazine has been posted to them - envelopes can be collected from church—or 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 the treasurer. Alternatively, you can contribute by Standing Order or bank transfer.



## END OF FINANCIAL YEAR:

Your contributions are always appreciated no matter how or 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. It would, therefore, be very helpful if your giving for 2025 could be completed by Sun. 28th Dec.

You can also make life easier for our finance team by donating before Christmas - and by placing your donation in one envelope rather than handing in a whole bundle!

**Also—to avoid confusion or offence - please do not hand in 2025 envelopes in January! Instead, please use only your new set of 2026 envelopes from 1st Jan. onwards.**

*The Lord loves  
a cheerful giver -  
and I give  
cheerfully by*



#### **STANDING ORDERS / ELECTRONIC BANKING:**

Many parishioners find it easier to subscribe to the parish by setting 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 can provide you with the details of how to do this.

To avoid any awkwardness - those who contribute by standing order, may wish to use our little 'Cheerful Giver' cards - so that you have something to place on the collection plate. Just pick up a card from the porch as you arrive for a service, and place it on the plate during the offertory hymn.

## **Christmas**

## **Charity Appeal**

During the Christmas period, we would appeal for your generosity in aid of the various mission and charity organisations that the parish supports; including Bishops Appeal - the Church of Ireland's world aid and development program. An envelope is provided with this magazine. You can place a donation on the plate, or pass it on to any of our Select Vestry members, at any time.

#### **GIFT AID DECLARATIONS:**

We would encourage all subscribers, who are UK tax-payers, to 'Gift-Aid' their Free-Will Offering.

This means that for every £1 you give, **the parish can claim back 25p from HMRC - and it costs you nothing extra.**

Last year, most subscribers renewed their Gift Aid declarations - as we introduced a new system whereby the parish now reclaims Gift Aid directly from HMRC.

If you would like to Gift-Aid your subscription for the first time (or if you have not yet renewed since last year) please complete a Gift-Aid declaration form. The forms for are available from the Treasurer, and should be returned to the treasurer or church-wardens.

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**If you have any queries relating to subscriptions or parish finances — please contact our Honorary Treasurer, Elizabeth Reid -**

**Phone: 079 7482 1303.**

**Email: [aghaleeparish@gmail.com](mailto:aghaleeparish@gmail.com)**

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We support Lisburn Food Bank on an on-going basis. Donations of food items can be left in the church porch any Sunday.





## Jigsaw - Sunday School

It is lovely to have the children with us on Sunday mornings and to be able to welcome two new members - Isaac and Mabel Bradley.

We have been learning about some of the Parables based on the topic Lost and Found.

Recently the children and leaders brought items from home and explained why they were special to them for a lesson based on the Parable of the Hidden Treasure.



They then decorated Treasure Boxes to take home as keepsakes.

We will now be working towards the Nativity which will be held on Sunday, 21st December.

**Sundays - during service time**

**All children welcome.**

**Contact: Jennifer Orr**



Tots have been happy in the Church Hall while Youth Hall is being refurbished.

Thank you to Rev Paul and Donald for all their help with the movement of toys every Monday morning.

Thank you also to those who have donated new toys recently.

We plan a major clean and clear out of old toys over the Christmas holiday period, in preparation for moving back to the Youth Hall. Any help will be welcome.

Santa will be visiting us at our Christmas party on 15th December.

Then, after a Christmas break, Tots will start again on 12th January; and each Monday 10:30 - 12 noon.

**Contacts: Ina Watson (Tots)**

-----  
**Elizabeth Hull / Alison Walker (GFS) >**

**Rev Paul McAdam (CLB) >**





**Girls Friendly Society:** The girls have been very busy over the last couple of months working towards their choral speaking and singing competitions on Saturday 29th November in Aghalee Parish Church.

The girls filled 21 shoe boxes which have been sent to Blythswood to be distributed to children and adults in countries such as Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania this Christmas. We would like to thank all those members of the parish who donated shoe boxes to this worthy cause.

Our annual sleepover took place on Friday 07 November in the church hall. The girls enjoyed chips for tea and then they did some karaoke, dancing and watched the movie 'Nativity'.

Before taking a break for the Christmas holidays, we are going to the pantomime – Goldilocks and the Three Bears on Monday 8th December and we will be having our Christmas party on Monday 15th December.

In the New Year, we will be working towards our Bible Study Competition, PE Competition and Arts & Crafts competitions.



**Church Lads' Brigade:** In October, we took part in the Regimental Parade and Service at St Patrick's Church, Ballymena.

As well as the usual games and activities - the boys enjoyed making some Harvest & Remembrance Crafts. The Martins completed their entries for the Martins Colouring competition; while the JTC & Senior boys have been busy learning about and building a model of Buckingham Palace.

**GFS & CLB** will hold their Christmas party on Monday 15th Dec; after which they'll take a break for 3 weeks - no GFS or CLB on 22nd / 29th Dec or 5th Jan 2026. Then, both organisations will **resume again on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7pm.**

We would like to wish all our girls, boys and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to hearing all about what Santa has brought them!!!



# **LADIES' Fellowship**

**September** - the first meeting of the Autumn season was hosted in the home of Renee Culbert. Sylvia Thompson show-cased fashion-wear from Simply Pink Boutique. A fun & entertaining evening.



Members of the Ladies Fellowship recently presented a cheque for £500 to Alison Leckey of Air Ambulance NI.

**October** - we welcomed Alison Leckey, a volunteer from Air Ambulance N.I. charity. We enjoyed hearing Alison speaking on the immense work provided by this charity in our province.



**November** - Deborah Elwood spoke & demonstrated her beauty products from Tropic. A great evening had by all. (& thank you to Elaine for being such a willing volunteer)

*Looking ahead to the next quarter -*

**December** - NO meeting.

**January 2026** - On Saturday 17th we will meet for coffee; Venue to be confirmed.

**February** - also tba.

**Wishing you all a Happy Christmas.**

**Contact: Joy Frazer**

Our members plan to attend the annual MU Diocesan Carol Service on Monday 1st December at St Dorothea's Church, Gilnahirk.

Warm Wishes to everyone for Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



Get 2026 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! Invite a friend!***

## Aghalee Parish



The Men's Group enjoy coffee & chat monthly on a Wednesday morning. In November, Canon Barry Paine visited to speak about his experiences as an Army Chaplain.

A breakfast outing to Vic-Ryn is planned for Wed. 17th Dec. All men of the parish welcome - speak to Harold Giboney or Donald Frazer for details.

## 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 on 028 9261 1502. The full list is on the notice-board in the church.

### **Dec:**

14th - Ms D. Mathers

21st - Christmas

28th - Christmas

### **Jan:**

11th - Mrs W. Malcomson

25th - Mrs G. Lavery

### **Feb:**

1st - Mrs F. McLorn

8th - Mrs S. McLorn

15th - Mrs J. Montgomery

22nd - Mrs E. Briggs

*Other Sundays still available!*





**The Leprosy  
Mission**  
Northern Ireland



Our visiting preacher on Sun. 22nd Feb. will be Stephen McCartney - the Supporter Engagement Officer for Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland.

Leprosy Mission NI is part of a Global Fellowship of over 200 projects in 33 countries around the world; and supports projects in five countries in Africa and Asia that are transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy.

We look forward to welcoming Stephen and to learning more about the Leprosy Mission NI.



**CASH FOR  
CLOBBER**



Thank you to everyone who contributes bags of clothing etc to our 'Cash for Clobber' appeal; £204 was raised for parish funds. Special thanks are due to Ina Watson who co-ordinated the appeal for us.



Follow us on Facebook:  
**@AghaleeParish**



**World Day  
of Prayer**  
**Fri 6th March 2026**

Our local service

will be held in

**St John's Parish Church,  
Moira, at 8pm.**

The service for 2026 has been prepared by Christian women of **Nigeria** and the theme will be:

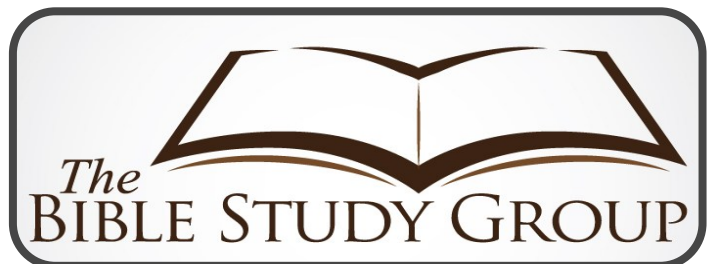
***"I Will Give You Rest: Come"***

***Matthew 11:28-30***

**The Choir** are getting ready for our Christmas Services - especially our Carol Service on 21st Dec, 6:30pm.

Practices continue on Thursdays at 7:30pm (or as arranged).

Thank you to our organists and choir for all their hard work and dedication to leading our worship.



During the autumn season, we studied and discussed the book of Daniel.

Bible Study will continue as arranged in the New Year - meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in the Parochial Hall, Aghalee.

## *From the Parish Registers*

### *Christian Burial*

1st Sep.     Margaret Sarah  
                  (Greta) Grant

9th Oct     Frederick Alexander  
                  (Jim) McInnes

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

## *Thank you*

Georgie Lavery would like to thank everyone who donated and attended the Fashion Show organized by Magowan Fashions, Ballynahinch, in memory of her niece Barbara.

So far a fantastic sum of £12,000 has been raised for the Friends of the Cancer Centre.

Georgie says: *'Thank you all very much for your kind generosity.'*



**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.*

## General Vestry Register

The General Vestry Register for Aghalee parish will be revised at a meeting in early February .

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 in January.



### **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](https://www.youtube.com/@aghaleeparish6582)**

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

Is your child starting Nursery or P1 in Sept 2026?



AND NURSERY UNIT

**Now taking bookings for school tours in  
December and January**

Please contact the school office to make a booking.

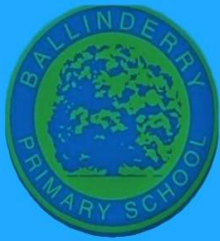


**028 92 611 529**



**info@maghaberryprimaryschool.lisburn.ni.sch.uk**

[www.maghaberryprimaryschool.com](http://www.maghaberryprimaryschool.com)



**Ballinderry  
Primary  
and  
Nursery**



**Open Evening**

**3rd  
December  
6.30pm - 8pm**



**Come and see what  
we have to offer!**

**LEARNING, CARING, ACHIEVING**

Office: 02892 651633

[www.ballinderryprimaryandnursery.co.uk](http://www.ballinderryprimaryandnursery.co.uk)



## REFRESHMENTS

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? If you can help to provide this some Sundays, please sign the rota in the church porch / hall.

Our parish website  
can be found at ...

**[www.  
aghalee.  
dromore.  
anglican.org](http://www.aghalee.dromore.anglican.org)**

... or scan  
the QR code.



## 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 15th February.**

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 Facebook page for updated information. Also, the parish diary is always available on our website.





# ANGELS AMONG US 25

A Faith Art Exhibition | Friday 28th Nov - Sunday 7th Dec

magheralin.org

**Magheralin  
Parish**

Fri / Sat  
from 10am

Sun -  
From 2pm

Mon - Thur  
From 6pm

**All Welcome**

## Christmas Concert

Celebrating  
Ten Years of

**Kerygma**

(The Good News Choir)

**Saturday 13th December 2025 at 7pm**

In Down Cathedral, 35 English St, Downpatrick BT30 6AB



Come and enjoy  
An Evening of Inspirational  
**Songs of Praise**

Also featuring **Junior Kerygma**

And a special guest  
appearance of

**Dana**  
(1970 Eurovision Song  
Contest Winner for Ireland)



Lorna Palmer Wagstaff - Musical Director



**Free  
admission**

A Retiring Offering  
will be Collected

## Kerygma Choir Final Concert

Kerygma choir, which has performed several times in Aghalee Parish, will shortly cease to operate.

After 10 years leading the choir, their musical director, Lorna Palmer Wagstaff, is stepping down from the role for personal reasons.

The choir may come together for special performances in future - but for now, this will be their final concert.

**All are welcome.**

*We wish Lorna and the choir members well and thank them for their musical ministry during the last 10 years.*

## Services for December '25 - February '26

30th Nov '25	Advent 1	11am Morning Prayer 6:30pm Service of Reflection & Remembering
7th Dec '25	Advent 2	11am Holy Communion
14th Dec '25	Advent 3	11am Morning Prayer <b>3:15pm Coffee, Cakes &amp; Carols</b> - in Parochial Hall, Aghalee
21st Dec '25	Advent 4	<b>11am Nativity / Family Service</b> <b>6:30pm Carol Service</b>
24th Dec '25	Christmas Eve	<b>11:30pm Midnight Communion Service</b>
25th Dec '25	Christmas Day	<b>10am Christmas Day Service</b>
28th Dec '25	Christmas 1	11am Morning Prayer
4th Jan '26	Christmas 2	11am Holy Communion
11th Jan '26	Epiphany 1	11am Morning Prayer
18th Jan '26	Epiphany 2	11am Service of the Word
25th Jan '26	Epiphany 3	11am Morning Prayer
1st Feb '26	Presentation of Christ Candlemas	11am Holy Communion
8th Feb '26	Ordinary Time	11am Morning Prayer
15th Feb '26	Ordinary Time	11am Morning Prayer
18th Feb '26	Ash Wednesday	Evening Service & midweek plans for Lent tbc
22nd Feb '26	Lent 1	11am Service of the Word <b>Preacher: Stephen McCartney</b> - Leprosy Mission

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

All are welcome to worship with us.