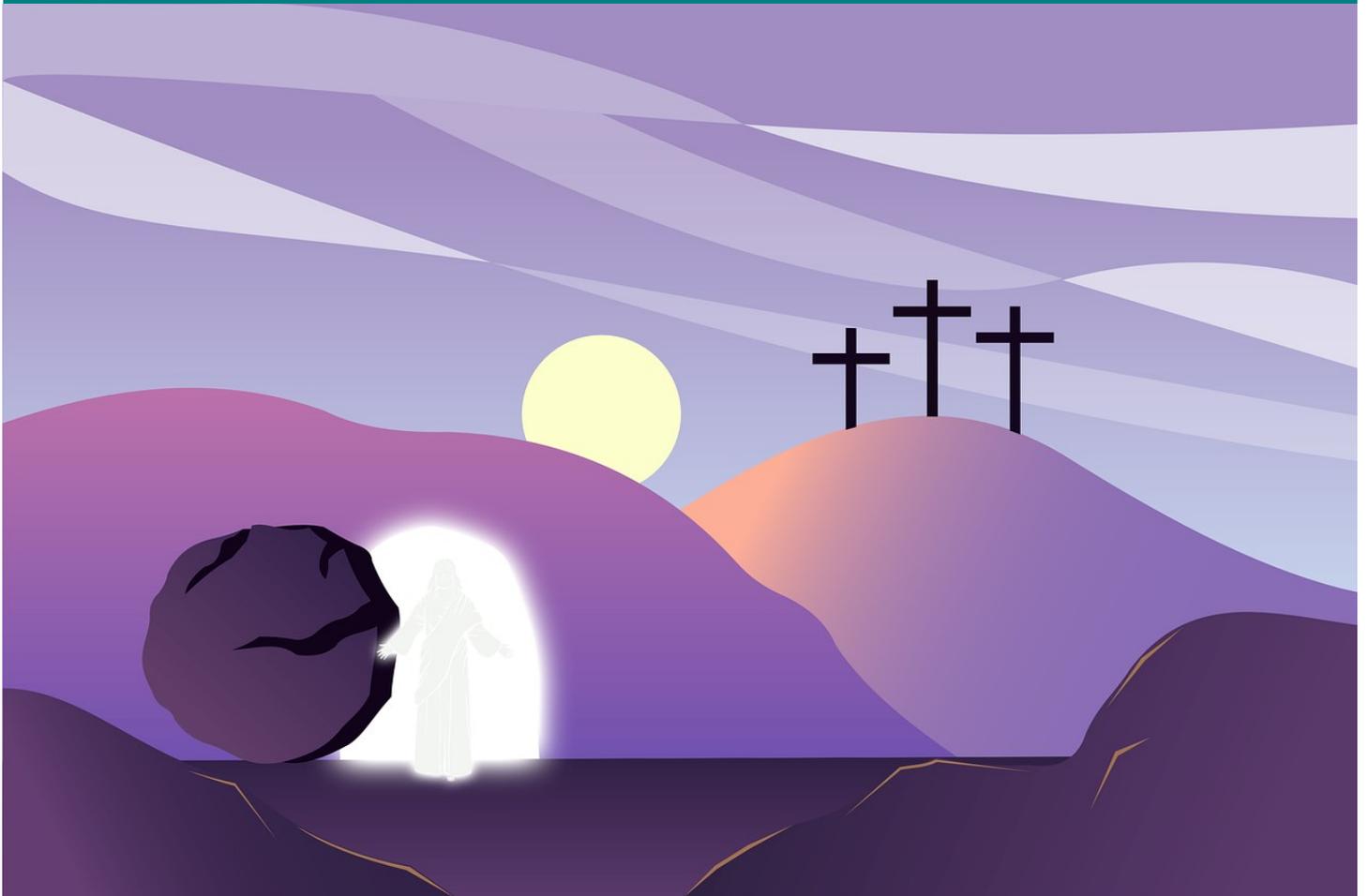


# Broadwater Beacon

Aghalee Parish News  
Easter / Mar - May 2026



**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:**

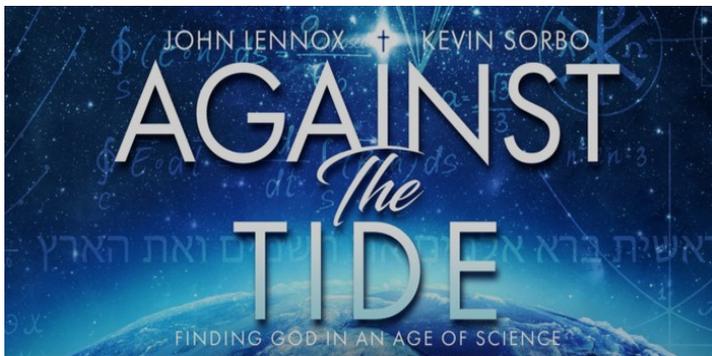
Norman McAlister (028 9265 2587)

**Treasurer:**

Elizabeth Reid (07974 821303)

**Parish E-mail:** [aghaleeparish@gmail.com](mailto:aghaleeparish@gmail.com)

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



**Midweek Services for Lent  
each Wednesday during Lent  
at 8pm in the Youth Hall**

During our Lent services we will be using a video entitled '**Against the Tide**'.

The video features Prof. John Lennox, in conversation with actor Kevin Sorbo, as they visit the Holy Land and examine the scientific and historical evidence for God, Jesus and the Gospels.

John Lennox is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Oxford University, and has frequently engaged in debate against the leading proponents of contemporary atheism. He encourages us to develop a deeper understanding of the Christian faith in the midst of an increasingly secular and atheistic society.

Kevin Sorbo said: *"I am frequently berated by Hollywood compatriots for my Christian faith. This seemed a great opportunity to learn how to respond from a master in turning the atheist manifesto on its head."*

**ANNUAL GENERAL  
VESTRY MEETING**

Our AGVM will be held on  
Tues. 14th April, 7:30pm  
- in the Church Hall.

*From the  
Parish Registers*

*Christian Burial*

11th Feb: **Esther Patricia Armstrong**

19th Feb: **Karen Letitia Gilmore**

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

**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.

**March:**

1st: Mrs L. Montgomery

15th: Mothering Sunday

22nd: Mrs J. Todd

**April:**

5th: Easter Sunday

12th: Mrs J. Lewis

19th: Mrs A. Henderson

**May:**

3rd: Mrs H. Laird

17th: Miss E. Reid

24th: Mrs M. Donaghey

*Other Sundays still available!*



## Holy Week

**Palm Sunday, 29th March**

11am Morning Prayer

**Holy Wednesday, 1st April**

8pm Praise & Prayer  
in the church

**Maundy Thursday, 2nd April**

7:30pm Holy Communion  
in the church

**Good Friday, 3rd April**

7:30pm Good Friday Service  
including Tenebrae  
in the Church

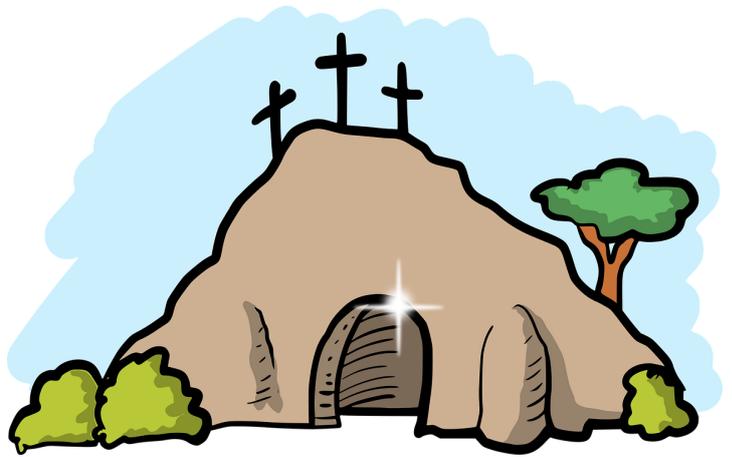
## Mother's Day

**Sunday 15th March, 11am**

An All-Age Family Service

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

**All welcome**



## EASTER SUNDAY

**5th April**

**11am Easter Service**

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

**All welcome.**



## 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**

... prepared by the Christian women of  
***The Cook Islands.***



Connecting God's Big Picture

## Jigsaw Sunday School

... meets most Sundays during service time; for boys and girls aged 3+.

The boys and girls have been busy since our Nativity Service.

They have been learning about The Lord's Prayer, Joseph (Son of Jacob), the Parable of the Sower and have just started a series of lessons based on the Miracles of Jesus.

Evidence of some of our craft activities can be seen on our notice board in the Youth Hall.

On Mothering Sunday & Easter Sunday, everyone will worship in church together.

Sunday School will continue until the end of May before taking a summer break; and our **Children's Day Service will be on Sunday 10th May** (please note - Sunday School will still continue for a few weeks after that, until the end of May!)

Through the summer, children's activities will be available at the back of church.



Tots meets on Monday mornings in the Youth Hall, 10:30am - 12 noon; for pre-school children and their responsible adults.

We continue to be a happy and lively group. Our move back to the newly refurbished Youth Hall from the Church Hall was smooth, thanks to the help of our vestry men, Wendy and Paul. The toy storage in the new cupboards is most welcome.

We have had a "predominance" of boys this year which was lovely. New arrivals tell us that could change next session. All welcome!

We finish this year on 20th April and wish all our tots and friends a happy summer.

*Thank you to all the children & youth leaders of our parish Organisations for their hard work throughout the year! Enjoy a summer break!*



# Aghalee G.F.S.

## Big Breakfast

on



**Saturday 07 March 2026**

**9.00am – 12.00noon**

at

**Aghalee Church Hall  
Soldierstown Road Aghalee**

**Cost: Adult : £7.00 Child : £3.00**

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



## Aghalee G.F.S

After a relaxing Christmas break, the girls have returned well-rested and ready to compete in various competitions. We have just completed our Bible Study course and are now working on our Arts & Crafts for judging on 20 March 2026.

This year the girls are taking part in the PE competitions on 25 March 2026 and are enjoying learning the routines under the guidance of our senior girls. We wish them good luck for this competition as this will be the first time taking part in this competition for many of our girls.

The leaders and girls would like to invite you all to our annual Big Breakfast which is taking place on Saturday 07 March 2026 from 9.00am – 12.00 noon. Please come along and invite your family and friends. As well as a full cooked breakfast we also have a cake stall with fresh homemade treats.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Big Breakfast and our annual Parents Evening.

**Church Lads' Brigade:** The CLB Lads have also had a busy term - completing their Scripture course about 'Men of God' (Gideon, Solomon & Nehemiah); working for their cookery, gardening & service badges; and playing in the Regimental Unihoc competition - Y-Team played well, and the JTC boys won medals for 2nd in their age-group!

**Dates for your diary** – NO G.F.S. or C.L.B. on Monday 06 April 2026 due to Easter Holidays; and our annual Parents Evening will take place on Friday 24 April 2026 at 7.30pm.



## Child Safeguarding Training ONLiNE

All youth or children's leaders should renew their Safeguarding training every 3 years. Training is now provided online by the Diocese. If anyone needs to renew their training, you can book online at Eventbrite (scan QR code or see our parish FB page for a link).



**Next training sessions are on Tues 3rd March, Wed 15th April or Thurs 15th May.**

*Any queries - please speak to Rev Paul.*



# LADIES' Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship started the New Year enjoying coffee, scones & lots of chat at Vic Ryn.

February meeting - ladies exchanged their favourite recipes. It was a fun evening & everyone enjoyed tasting some favourite made recipes.

March 17th - no meeting; Next meeting April 21st, details tbc



## Aghalee Parish



On Tuesday 17th March the men's group plan to attend the Diocesan St Patrick's Day events in Downpatrick; leaving Soldiertsown Church Hall at 10am.

For our April meeting (Wed 15th Apr), there may be an outing to the Lisburn Museum. As well as the permanent exhibitions of the Linen Centre, there is currently an exhibition entitled 'Seymour Street 150: Methodism in Lisburn.'

We then hope to round off our year with breakfast at Vic-Ryn on Wed 20th May.

All gents welcome; for further details please speak to Harold Giboney or Donald Frazer



During May, we will hold a special collection for Christian Aid.

Envelopes will be available in the church

and donations can be placed on the plate any Sunday in May. Alternatively, donations can be passed on to Joy Frazer.

**Thank you for your generosity!**



## MAINTENANCE OF GRAVES:

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

In the new section, graves should be maintained level in grass. Any ornaments / flowers etc must be placed only on the base of the headstone - and not on the grass area.

We would further remind you that it is essential to abide by the District Council's recycling policy. Only natural flowers / wreaths may be placed in the brown bin. All plastic wreaths, pots etc must be placed in the in the grey/blue bins

Please see the notice beside the church gate.

The parish may be fined if users of the graveyard disregard the council's recycling policy.



Follow us on Facebook:

**@AghaleeParish**

for all the latest parish info.



# Diocesan St Patrick's Day Celebrations

*Bishop David writes:* We warmly invite you to join us for the diocesan St Patrick's Day Celebrations in Down Cathedral and Saul on Tuesday 17 March. The theme for 2026 is ***Courage in the Line of Fire*** and it's a huge privilege to have **Finnish MP Dr Päivi Räsänen** as our preacher at the Festival Service in Down Cathedral and **Mr Ian Bingham, Director of CARE NI** as the preacher at Saul.

Päivi Rasanen is an eight-term member of the Finnish Parliament, the former chairperson of the Christian Democrats and Minister of the Interior. Päivi has become known for her courageous defence of free speech and recently testified before US Congress about her six-year-long criminal prosecution for tweeting a Bible verse under Finnish "hate speech" law. She and a co-defendant have twice been acquitted but await the ruling of the Finnish Supreme Court. Päivi will preach from Acts 5 at the Festival Service.

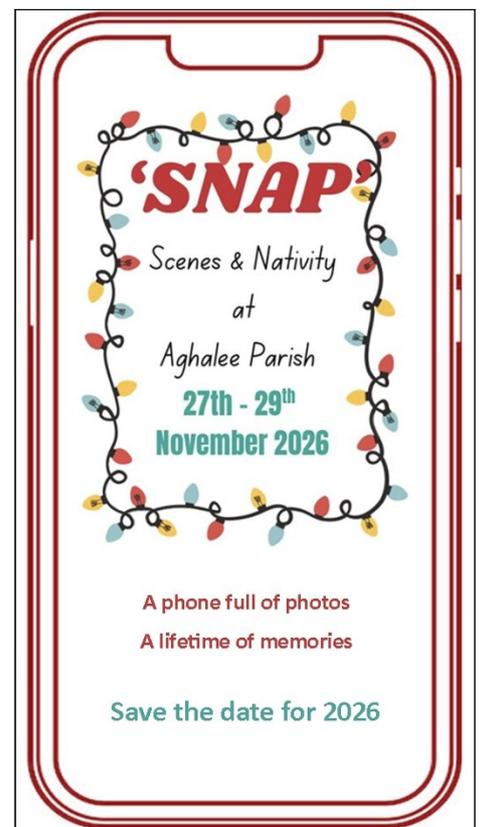
## PROGRAMME

- 9.15am: Holy Communion at Saul
- 10.15am: Prayer Pilgrimage from Saul to Downpatrick
- 11.45am: Festival Service in Down Cathedral
- 1.00pm: Complimentary 'Picnic in the Pews'

**Transport to Saul:** Please park along the Mall leading to the Cathedral in Downpatrick and board one of the private buses. Buses to the communion service depart between 8.15 and 8.45am. The last bus for the 35-minute pilgrimage leaves at 9.45am. The last bus from Saul to the Cathedral leaves at 10.40 am.



Preparations are well underway for our **Christmas Festival** - Costume fittings will begin soon and lots of help will be needed during the months ahead. We're still collecting plastic milk bottles & foam packing fabric. Details as per Sunday notices - please save the date and be ready to help as needed!



## Services for March - May 2026

1st March	Lent 2	Holy Communion
8th March	Lent 3	Morning Prayer
15th March	Lent 4: Mothering Sunday	Service of the Word All-age family service
22nd March	Lent 5: Passion Sunday	Morning Prayer
29th March	Lent 6: Palm Sunday	Morning Prayer
1st, 2nd & 3rd April	Holy Week	Holy Week Services Each evening in the church at 7:30pm
5th April	Easter Sunday	Easter Service (All Age) Including Holy Communion
12th April	2nd of Easter	Morning Prayer
19th April	3rd of Easter	Morning Prayer
26th April	4th of Easter	Morning Prayer
3rd May	5th of Easter	Holy Communion
10th May	6th of Easter	Morning Prayer
17th May	Sunday after Ascension	Morning Prayer
24th May	Pentecost	Children's Day
31st May	Trinity Sunday	Morning Prayer

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

**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.

### Notes for the Magazine

should be with the rector by  
**Sunday 10th 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 Facebook page for updated information. Also, the parish diary is always available on our website.