



St Patrick's Parish News



Summer 2025



Safeguarding Trust

"It is the policy of the Church of Ireland to set standards for the welfare of all children sharing in its ministry with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm."

In the Parish of Skerry, Rathcavan & Newtowncrommelin we follow this policy using the Code of Practice to create a safe environment in our ministry to children.

If you have any concerns relating to Safeguarding, please contact one of our Safeguarding Panel below:



Rev David Ferguson

07773 051603



Mrs Sandra Adams

07917 543803



Mr Andrew Kennedy

07734 565454



Ms Vicky Thompson

07833 784726

There is always hope

“...But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint...” - Isaiah 40:31 NIV

My young grandson hates long queues. To him, twenty minutes is a rough draft of eternity! He cannot anticipate the reward at the other end of the line. Certain moments are worth waiting for if our hearts are mature enough to anticipate the reward at the end of the line.

Isaiah penned the inspired words above to a people who were accustomed to waiting on God. He is who He is, and His timing and thoughts are not equivalent to ours. Though we do not know His thoughts, timetable, or sometimes even His plan for the next step in our lives, we know Him. We know who He is and that He is faithful and full of compassion for us. We know His plans for our lives are good and that He is for us. He loved us so much; He sent Jesus to earth to save us!

Because of whom God is, we have hope. Because our hope is in Him, we experience renewed strength. Eagles are majestic and strong. Isaiah didn't write *“...imagine soaring on wings like eagles...”*. He wrote *“...they will soar on wings like eagles....”*. God's word is assured. He has never broken a promise. We will run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint ...when we wait on the Lord and His strength.

A prayer for Marcus and the Parish as you both enter a new era of hope with the appointment of your new Rector:

Father,

Help us to place our hope in You. You promise renewed strength for us. Yet, so often, we race throughout our day at a pace that we cannot sustain. You, Father, are Sustainer and Provider. In our everyday lives, we need You more than we remember. Forgive us for forgetting how much we need You. Teach us to wait. By the power of Your Holy Spirit in us, infuse our hearts and minds with the strength to soar, run, and walk without growing weary or faint.

Amen.

Your Friend and Rural Dean
David



Welcome to our new Rector

The Rev Marcus Hart, curate of Christ Church, Ware, Hertfordshire, has been appointed rector of the Parish of Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin.

He is married to Jude and they have a three-year-old daughter and six-month-old son. The couple are both originally from Northern Ireland. Jude is from Ballymena, while Marcus grew up in Lisburn.



He has a BEng in Civil Engineering from Queen's University Belfast, graduating in 2015. He obtained a PGCE in Secondary Mathematics with Qualified Teacher Status in 2016 and studied a BA in Theology at St Mellitus College from 2019-2022.

He was an intern for Scripture Union NI from 2014-2015; a ministry apprentice in St Mark's Church, Battersea Rise, London, for a year from September 2015; and taught Mathematics in Thames Christian School, London, from 2016-2019.

As an Ordinand, Marcus worked in St Mark's, Battersea Rise, before his appointment as curate in Christ Church, Ware, in July 2022. Over the years, he has volunteered as a rugby coach, Scripture Union camp leader and church youth leader, and has also volunteered on mission trips to Zambia and Tanzania.

In his spare time, Marcus enjoys rugby – though admits that these days he mostly watches the game – fitness, hiking, cold water swimming and travel, but especially enjoys time with his wife and children.

Marcus explained why he was drawn to the role of rector in Skerry, Rathcavan and Newtowncrommelin. "St Patrick's is a church that is embedded in its community and seeks to reach those outside the Church and to grow those who are inside it," he said. "I hope to bring a heart that is passionate for Jesus, that encourages those in St Patrick's to grow in their relationship with him and enables them to live that faith out. Jude and I cannot wait to meet everyone and start forming relationships with the whole church."



A date for the Service of Institution in Broughshane will be advised in due course.

The Dandelion

I asked in the shop for weed killer. “...*So, you, too, have dandelions...*” responded the assistant immediately. It seems that many had been wanting to kill the dandelions. They get everywhere is a common call – a real blight on gardens and countryside.

Hold on. What about that blaze of colour that stands out against the fresh green grass. That vivid yellow that is such a sign of spring. Can we not rejoice in that splash of colour? And those beautifully formed florets with the five fused petals – a work of art. And can our pet bunnies not enjoy those leaves? Indeed, the new leaves can added to a salad not to mention the dandelion tea or wine that can be made – free of charge.

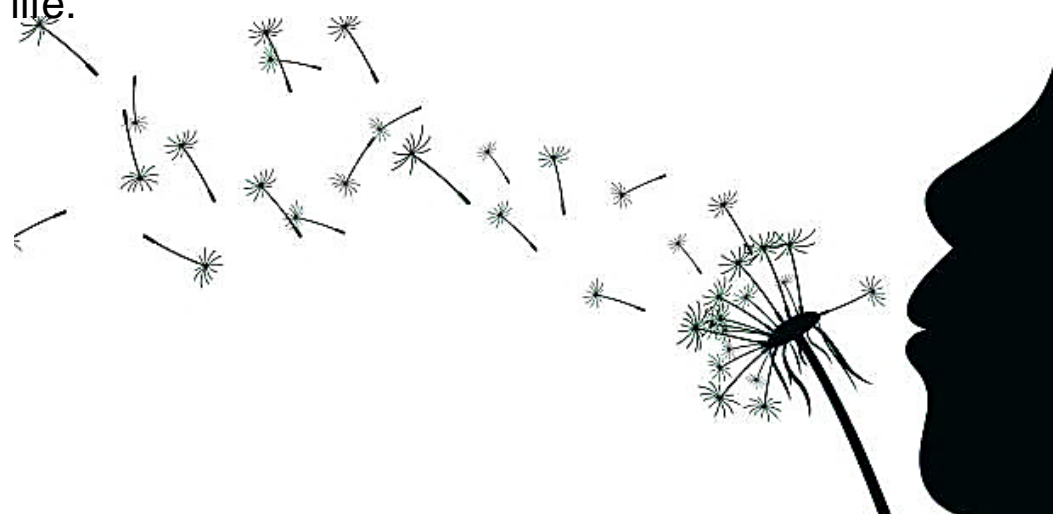
Historically the humble dandelion has also been used for medicinal purposes. How many of us also when we were young liked to take those resulting fluff balls with all their seeds and supposedly tell the time by blowing on the ball? Yes, the humble dandelion, or from the French, dent de lion – the lion’s tooth – depicting the shape of the leaf – part of God’s creation with its part to play in the grand scheme of things.

Maybe Jesus could have said, instead of talking about lilies, “...*consider the dandelions of the field...*” and proceeded to draw some teaching from this part of nature. Imagine creation that was just black and white – no colour. Well, the dandelion reminds us of the beautiful colourful creation of which we are part. You find dandelions hard to pull up – that is because they have very long roots. Deep rooted – that is what we need to be – deep rooted in Jesus, held firm by him. Notice how those dandelions are so very strong – they can even push up through tarmac.

With God strengthening us we can push up through all sorts of difficulties. And the fluff balls with all those seeds to be spread everywhere – are we not to spread the good news of Jesus wherever we find ourselves.

So, the dandelion not so much our enemy as our friend – there to teach us some lessons for life.

Stuart Lloyd





Morning Call

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Informal Worship 10.30am to 11.30am

Tea and toast at 10am

in the Church Hall



Together at Ten

**Communion &
Community
Wednesday
at 10.00am**



Please donate to our Foodbank boxes

Mothers' Union

St Patrick's Broughshane branch meetings are now conducted by committee members because Cathy Doig has taken on other responsibilities. However, she is always available for guidance and support.



2025 Theme
Join Us & Join In

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Connor

© The Diocese of Connor Mothers' Union

75th Anniversary

During our last meeting we planned the 75th Anniversary of Mothers' Union in St. Patrick's. We are holding a special Anniversary Service on Sunday 22nd June at 11.30 am. Afterwards there will be a light lunch in the church hall to which every member of the congregation will be very welcome. We do hope you will join us for this very special occasion. We are hoping that as many members as possible will attend and we have extended invitations to many previous members.

The speaker will be Mrs Alison Skillen, the Diocesan President, and we are looking forward to welcoming her to St. Patrick's and meeting up with 'old' friends.

We enjoyed the MU Festival Service on Sunday 23rd March in St. Anne's Cathedral. It was well attended and the speaker was Bishop of Connor Diocese George Davison.

Dates for your diary:

- Friday and Saturday, 3rd & 4th October –
MU Getaway Weekend in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan.
- Saturday, 29th November at 2.30 pm
Afternoon Tea in Leighinmohr Hotel, Ballymena.

Our branch meetings will start again in September after the summer break and everyone is welcome.





Dates for your diaries

- **Sunday 15th June** – Children's Day at the 11.30am service in church
- **Saturday 21st June** – BBQ – Meeting at the park in Broughshane at 12pm then up to the church hall for food at 1.00pm followed by the water fight.

Since March we have celebrated Pancake Day and Mother's Day. We learnt about Saul becoming Paul and found out what happened to him in jail. We also listened to the Easter story, went on an Easter egg hunt quiz, made buns and got Easter eggs!



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for coming to Sunday Club this year. It has been lots of fun as we have learnt about God together and enjoyed crafts, snacks, quizzes and games. We hope you all have a lovely summer, and we look forward to welcoming you all back again in September.

Sunday Club Leaders



"Your smile can light up the world, so keep shining, little one!"

"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden."

"Be curious, be brave, and always believe in yourself."

This term, Beavers completed work towards their International and Global Issues badges by learning about endangered animals and clean water.



In March we had a visit from Kidz Farm NI. Beavers enjoyed meeting lots of exotic animals, including lizards and snakes. We finished the term with some Easter activities and an Easter egg hunt.

In April we joined Beavers from Slemish District at the Beaver Hike in Cullybackey.

During the hike, Beavers looked out for plants and animals, had a go at using a compass and binoculars and worked as a team to make a picture of a hedgehog out of natural materials.



In May we attended Beaver Rally Day at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre which marked the 60th anniversary of Beavers in Northern Ireland. Beavers undertook a challenge course, Beaver trail, climbing, arts and crafts, kick and stick, obstacle course, backwoods cooking and African drumming. It was a

lovely, sunny day and between the organised activities, Beavers enjoyed playing frisbee, football, rounders and tug-of-war.

In May and June we will be completing activities for the Navigator badge, including learning about the points of a compass and drawing maps of our local area.

Adam and Mags



The Cubs have been busy during the last quarter, we have had a visit from the Kidz Farm, practised our map reading and orientation skills, and, along with the Scouts, planted some trees around the riverside path. We have also made the most of the recent good weather and played lots of new-to-us outdoor sports like badminton and netball.

The Cubs went to the district flag competition and really enjoyed the evening.

We have district canoeing and a camp to look forward to in the next few months.

Chrissy



Last term's highlight was undoubtedly the joint Scout and Explorer trip to the Belfast Activity

Centre in March when the young people got the chance to go caving in Ireland's largest artificial cave. They also scaled a wooden tower and a hanging wall before giving abseiling a go. Everyone who took part had a blast and devoured the Domino's pizza dinner!



We have had a jam-packed term, when we were busy finishing off our Navigator badge, and participating in the District Orienteering event at Antrim Castle Gardens with lots of other scouts from Slemish District. The scouts put their navigation and teamworking skills to the test, trying to get to as many Control Points as possible and getting back to the finish on time. They also took part in the 6-a-side football, competing with other groups across Slemish District.



Scouts and Explorers undertook their most difficult challenge yet; a chip shop survey. We hunted high and low for the best chips in Ballymena and the winner was Jacob's Kitchen.

We also made paracord woggles in our necker colours and look forward to making some paracord bracelets at Summer Camp. We can now wear our own unique handmade woggles!

Cubs, Scouts and Explorers joined forces for a cross-section evening at Acorn Wood, where, with the support from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, we planted some new trees around the area to aid the recovery of the wood from Storm Éowyn.

We have started the Fire Safety badge: learning about fire lighting, precautions when setting up a campfire and enjoying making nachos on campfires. Scouts also learnt how to correctly set up and use our camping stoves by making a delicious curry. We will be completing the badge with a visit to the Ballymena Fire Station to learn about fire safety essentials.



We are looking forward to going camping this summer and trying our tent pitching skills.

Hilary

Explorer Scouts

This term the Explorers have been outside enjoying the glorious weather. With the assistance of the Woodland Engagement Officer from the Mid & East Antrim Council we planted trees in Acorn Wood. We have been using the wood to practise our knots, shelter building, pioneering and cooking skills in preparation for district cooking and NI survival camps.



EXPLORERS



Derek



Christian Aid Week

Canon Stuart Lloyd has again undertaken his Annual Fast for Christian Aid Week.

In the good weather he was able to sit out in the main car park at McNeill's for two of the three days of his 72-hour effort and was accompanied for some of the time by parishioners from St Patrick's Church.

A massive £3253.73 was raised. Very well done, Stuart!





St Patrick's (Broughshane)

Rainbow Guide Unit

The girls involved in Rainbow Guides learn about themselves, discover their abilities and explore the world they live in.

At Easter the girls enjoyed arts & crafts in many forms. They created beautiful filter paper flowers (now displayed on the Rainbows' bulletin board in the church hall) using coffee filters, markers and water. They also made bunny families as an Easter and spring decoration.



The girls continued to work on interest badges at home, extending their development. One such badge, Construction, asks girls to make a map of a village - one girl created Broughshane out of recycled boxes, decorating each shop front by hand: super work, Nancy!



The group has also enjoyed the beautiful weather in early May. We had a Sensory Safari at Houston's Mill, creating lovely artwork with the leaves and flowers in the area.



If you know a girl who is interested in joining, please register by visiting the Girlguiding website – Register a Child: You can register by visiting the Girlguiding website – Register a Child: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Lori

Brownie Guide Unit



Brownies joined in the celebrations on 1st March to mark 25 years of Guiding in Broughshane. The girls enjoyed a fun filled day of activities, games, crafts and cake! Thank you to everyone involved for a wonderful day.



This term a number of our Brownie girls completed their Promise and earned the Promise badge. Well done to Eliza, Chloe, Lottie, Rebecca, Imogen, Charlotte and Evie. Charlotte and Evie completed their



Promise in Broughshane Waterfowl Park! During our walk along Buttermilk Bridge Walk, the Brownies made beautiful nature bracelets.



The Brownies also tried their hand at architecture during the term, both structural and edible. The girls made structures out of recycled materials and out of fruit and veg to discover what makes a solid, strong foundation.



This term we said goodbye to girls who moved up to Guides and welcomed Annie and Isla to the unit; and new leader-in-training Lynsey.

Jacqueline, Laura, Geraldine



Guides

St Patrick's (Broughshane)

Guide Unit

As the days get longer we have been concentrating on the out of doors. We practised our map reading skills and we played a game to show how to stay safe in the sun. We even made up some videos to show what we had learnt.

We shared our memories of previous residentials and looked at all the jobs that are needed next time we go away. Everyone has to join in so that we can all enjoy the experience: teamwork is key.



We have completed the annual Lorne Walk which raises funds for the Training Centre at Holywood, Dunluce House and Unit funds. Despite the rain we had a lovely walk and completed a quiz along the way. Thank you to James for putting it together for us.

We learnt how to fingerspell our names in British Sign Language (BSL) and how to ask someone their name. It was a bit harder to learn the Guide Promise but we are getting there!!

It was good to see Hannah back for a few meetings with baby Freddie who slept all the way through!! We also welcomed Laura as a Leader in Training and wish her well on her Guiding journey.



We hope everyone has a great summer break when we break up at the beginning of July and comes back refreshed in September.

If you would like to join us you can register by visiting the Girlguiding website at

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Hannah & Geraldine

Ranger Guide Unit



The girls continued with our programme learning about defibrillators and their importance in first aid. They explored the flavours they liked and made drinks based on those in Mix It Up. They played a version of tic-tac-toe transporting water: the fastest to do so won. It was fun especially as the evening was very warm.



In March the Rangers went to an Indian restaurant: the food and the company were good. They completed Easter crafts making bunnies out of facecloths to hold a chocolate egg, and Easter baskets from paper cups. They also made paper origami rabbits and raced them outside. We welcomed four new Rangers into the unit.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continued, the Bronze group had their first training outing. The following day was the turn of the Silver group. The Bronze group completed the Qualifying Expedition around Ballypatrick forest and the hills above Cushendun. It was a great weekend, the sun was shining, and the girls sang and chatted the whole way round.



The Silver group did their Practice Expedition on a very chilly, but sunny weekend. They worked well together as a team and completed a demanding weekend. Thank you to James, John, Cathy and Geraldine who all gave up their weekends to supervise and train us.

If you would like to know more about what we do, or you are interested in joining or volunteering please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk or talk to one of our leaders.

Cathy & Geraldine



Can you help to keep the Church properties neat and tidy?

Grass cutting?

Weeding?

General tidying?

If so, please speak to the Church Wardens

CHURCH FLOWERS



Could you provide floral decorations?

Celebrate a special occasion or

Just for fun!

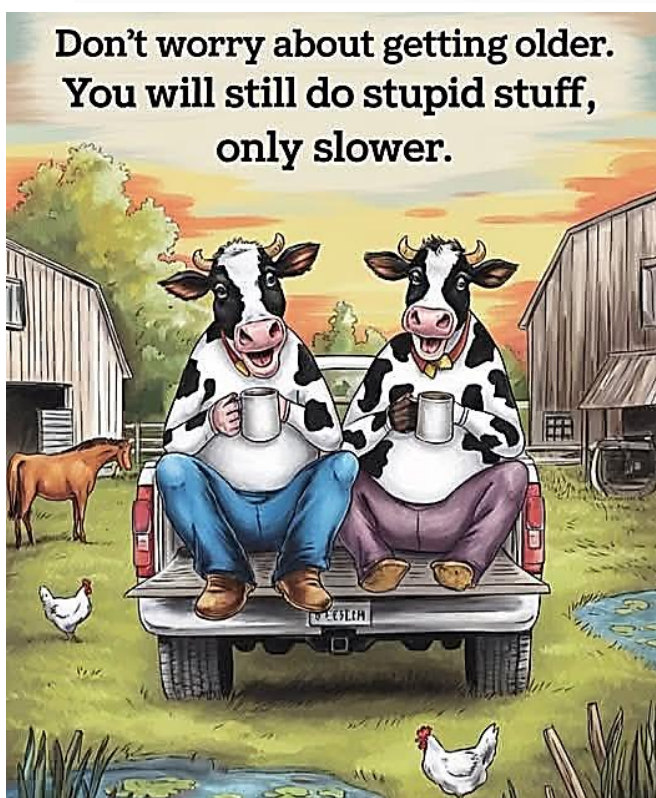
Please sign the list in the porch and/or speak to Beth Clyde

Be the reason someone feels welcome, seen, heard, valued, loved, and supported.

Safeguarding Trust Panel

David Ferguson
Sandra Adams
Andrew Kennedy
Victoria Thompson

Sunday Club (Primary Schoolers) Lyndsay Williamson	Rainbows Lori Hartman Emma Porritt	Beavers Mags Carson
SPY	Brownies Jacqueline McClintock Geraldine Linford	Cubs Chrissy Moffett
Mothers' Union Helen Foster	Guides Hannah Aldridge Geraldine Linford	Scouts Hilary Arthur
Tots Violet Lucas	Rangers Cathy McCaig Geraldine Linford	Explorers Derek McKillop



Who's Who at St Patrick's	
Rector	Vacant
Honorary Secretary	Julie Thompson
Assistant Secretary & Bookings	James Linford
Honorary Treasurer	Steven Ewing
Church Wardens	(Rector's) Dennis Taylor
	(People's) Beth Clyde
Glebe Wardens	(Rector's) Gavin Mark
	(People's)
Fire Warden	James Linford
Sanctuary Flowers	Beth Clyde
Catering Committee	Suzanne Beckett
Heating	Derek Mills-Westley
Magazine Editor	Geraldine Linford

Select Vestry

Rector, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Suzanne Beckett, Anne Brownlee, Emma Erwin, Laura Montgomery, Kathryn McGall, Derek McKillop, Richard Reade, Vicky Thompson, Stephen Tuff, Stephen Young



Autumn Edition
Articles need to be with
the Editor by
24th August 2025
geraldine@linford1.net



Sundays



Holy Communion: 1st Sunday of the month at 11:30am

Morning Prayer: 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 11:30am

Morning Call: 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 10:00am
in the Church Hall with Tea and Coffee

Family Service: 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:30am

Facebook and YouTube Weblinks are available on
www.stpatricksbroughshane.com/online-sunday-service

Radio: Church Services are broadcast on short wave 27.60 Frequency 27 MHz

Wednesdays

Together at Ten: Holy Communion (Form1) at 10:00am
With tea/coffee and cake afterwards
in the Stoney Room

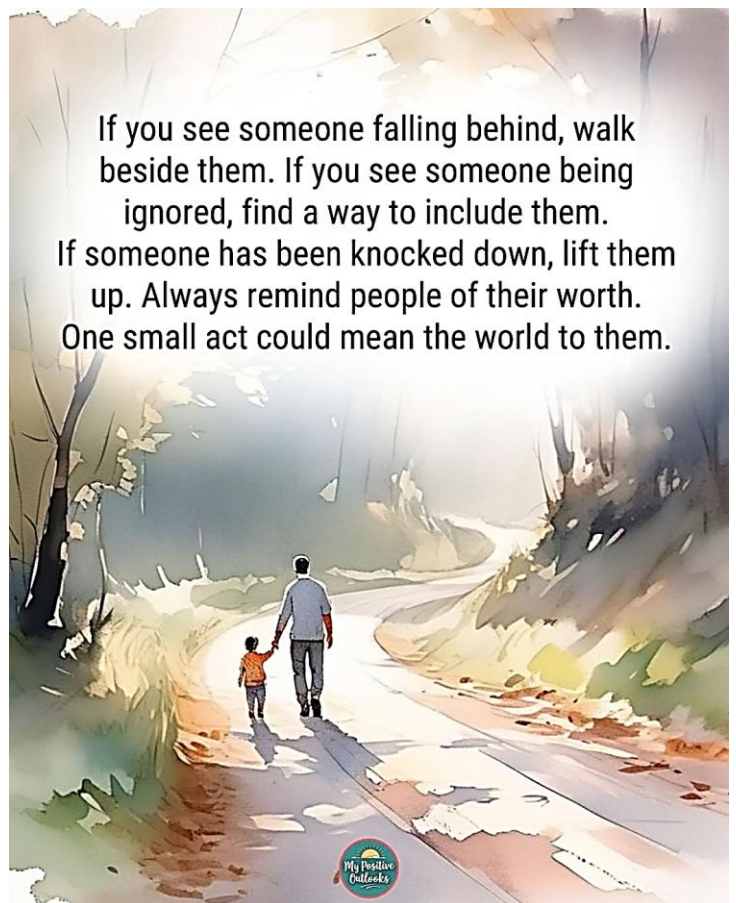
Services will continue to be available on Facebook, YouTube, the website
and by telephone after 1pm on Sunday on **028 2517 0014**
(calls are charged at local rate)



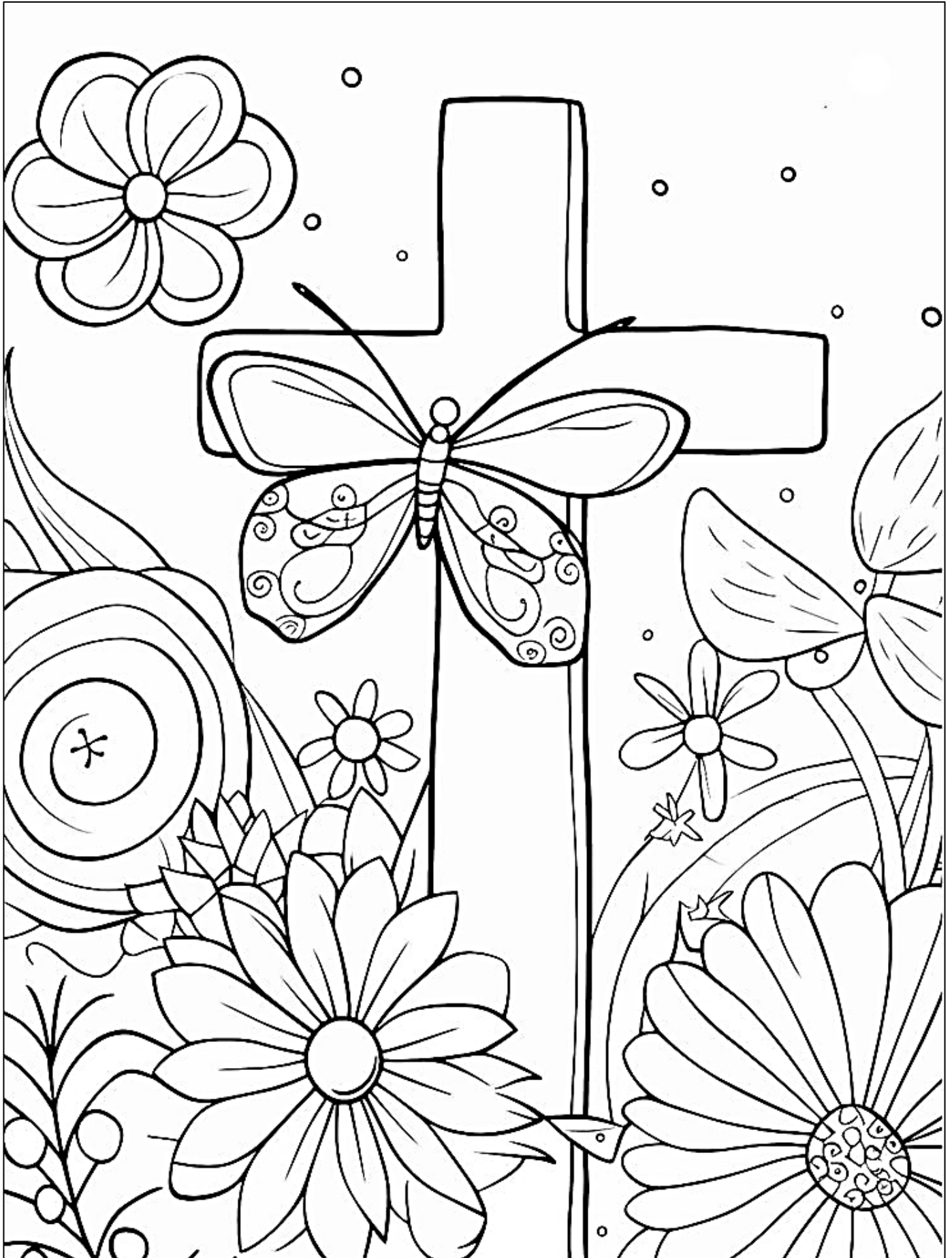
We don't
always have to
agree with
another,
but it's
important that
we learn to
**respect each
other.**



If you see someone falling behind, walk
beside them. If you see someone being
ignored, find a way to include them.
If someone has been knocked down, lift them
up. Always remind people of their worth.
One small act could mean the world to them.



Colouring Competiton



Send your picture to the Editor via the Church Wardens

Name:

Age:

Parent/Carer Contact Number: