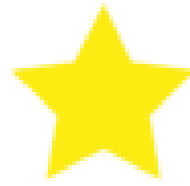




St Patrick's Parish News

JOY
to the
world

Winter 2025



For

unto us

a child is

BORN, unto us

a Son is given

and his name will be

called, wonderful, counselor,

mighty GOD, the everlasting Father

the Prince of Peace

The Rector writes

As I begin my ministry with you, Jude and I want to express our genuine thanks for the warmth, kindness, and generosity you have shown prior to, and since, our arrival. Starting in a new parish is always a mixture of excitement and apprehension, but you have made the transition a joy. From conversations at our door, to the many acts of hospitality, I have already seen the love and faith that characterise this church family.

As we approach Christmas, we are invited to stand in wonder at Immanuel, God with us, light entering darkness, hope breaking into a weary world. No matter how busy the season becomes, at the heart of it lies the simple and amazing truth that God comes close to us. My prayer is that this Christmas, whether in the laughter of family gatherings or in quieter moments, we will pause and know the nearness of God.

Looking ahead to the New Year, I am excited for the journey we will share together as a parish - learning, growing, worshipping, and serving side-by-side. May we be a people shaped by prayer, strengthened by fellowship, and eager to show God's love to the community around us.

Thank you once again for your warm welcome. I look forward to getting to know each of you as we begin this new chapter together. My prayer for all of us;

"...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)

With every blessing,

Marcus



Parish Register

Holy Matrimony

3rd October 2025

Sara Allen and
Richard Greenwood

1st November 2025

Katherine Jane Allen and
Matthew Alexander Reed



Together @ Ten

Communion & Community
Wednesdays at 10am
followed by coffee & cake!



Some God!

I got it as a present, an autobiography of a recently retired English rugby international. I like autobiographies, but I am not so keen on those of sportspeople who, basically, give you a blow-by-blow account of every game or match they ever played. I like to get some impression of them as people, and I am interested to hear if faith plays any part in their lives.

In this particular book the only mention of faith of sorts came in a description of a semi-final in the last Rugby World Cup when England played South Africa. With three minutes to go England, was still winning when South Africa was awarded a penalty. Convert it and the Springboks would win. This is what I read: *"I don't really believe in God, but I asked him to make Pollard miss. If he does exist, He wasn't listening. It was a beautiful strike, straight through the middle".*

As expressed in the book, might not this light-hearted remark actually convey some people's view of God. He is given little thought, and he may or may not exist, but there is no harm giving him a try. Surely, if he is a God and, supposedly, a loving God, he should look after us and give us what we want. Maybe he is viewed as an over-tolerant grandpa figure who should like to spoil his children. He certainly should not allow bad things to happen to them. He's not much of a God if he can't sort out our problems and make life easier for us.

Two things can be said. Those attending a rugby match are committed to one side or the other. We must commit. We must make a leap of faith one way or the other. We declare in faith that there is no God or we declare in faith that there is. Believing that there is a God, we go on to deepen our faith in that God. We come to appreciate the greatness of our God – Lord of the immensity of creation and lover of all – in whom we live and move and have our being. God thus is in control, and not us mere creatures.

The second thing to be said is that yes, God wants us to bring our requests to him, to express our concerns to cry out to him. Of course, he already knows what is on our mind and already cares but he wants us to care with him – he values our trust and care. We hand over our concerns to him leaving them in his care and trusting that he will work his purposes in them. At times we may struggle to see him at work yet faith stretched can also deepen. And we remember what Saint Augustine had to say about prayer *"A person prays not so much for God to be instructed as for the person to be constructed"*.

Our God is a great big God who holds us in his hands – not one who might manipulate a rugby ball to hit a post and give a win to our team!

Stuart Lloyd



News from St. Patrick's Branch

Our meetings started back again after the summer break with a service of Holy Communion in September. The service was taken by the Revd Dr Bob Cotter, and afterwards we enjoyed our traditional cup of tea and chat.



In October one of our branch members, Carolanne Getty, spoke to us about her work as a Paediatric diabetic specialist nurse, working with children and young people. We all found it very interesting and informative.

Between our October and November meetings members and friends collected items for the women who, because of domestic abuse, find themselves at the Women's Aid Refuge in Ballymena with very few personal belongings.

We marked the '16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence' at our November meeting by inviting Alison Ferguson, Manager of the Refuge in Ballymena, to talk to us about her work. Alison was delighted to receive the many donations from St Patrick's Parish.

Diary dates

- 4th December. 7.30pm. All-Ireland Holy Communion Service in St Polycarp's Church, Belfast
- 28th January 2026. 8.00pm. Branch AGM in the Stoney Room

All our meetings are open to everyone – join us, join in!

You can find out more about what is happening in Mothers' Union, in Connor Diocese, Ireland and Worldwide by going to

www.connormothersunion.org or www.mothersunion.ie



**'Don't sit down and wait for the opportunities to come.
Get up and make them.' - Madam C.J. Walker**

SUPPORT SERVICES NORTHERN IRELAND



Freephone 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Abuse Helpline

Open to all women and men affected by
domestic & sexual abuse

0808 802 1414

PSNI

(In an emergency ring 999)

101



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

St Patrick's Tots



**Thursday 9.30 - 11.30
in the Church Hall**

**For children under 5
Parents, Grandparents
and Carers
£2 per family**

**Mum's and Tots group is looking for volunteers for a
couple of hours on a Thursday morning. There is a
flexible rota in place.**

**Please contact Violet Lucas for more information if you
would be interested in helping out.**



We started back in September, and it was great to see all the old faces - and some new ones, too! We have enjoyed learning about how God created the Earth through stories, quizzes and crafts. We are starting work on our Nativity, which we are all looking forward to and which will take place in the church on Sunday 21st December.



Sunday Club Leaders

Explorers

Congratulations to one of the Explorers who completed their Young Leader Module A training, an essential requirement for volunteering in our junior sections.



Explorers from across Slemish District attended the Crumlin Jail Horror Experience. A fun night was had by all.

We harvested and processed hawthorn and rosehip seeds and planted them in the group's tree nursery beds at the side of the hall.



We continue to work on our pioneering and astronomy badges with an impending district-organised trip in December to OM Night Sky.

A former Explorer visited the group recently and was presented with their Silver DofE award



*Derek McKillop
Group Scout Leader*

We started the Winter Term with the Explorers teaching the Scouts skills they had learnt from their survival camp and sharing their experiences from that weekend. The Scouts also practiced skills such as sewing, ironing and cleaning for their Skills Challenge badge. We touched on Scouting values and the importance of The Promise and what it means to be a Scout.



Some of the Scouts participated in the District's event for 'Jamboree on the Air – Jamboree on the Internet' (JOTA-JOTI). They had the opportunity to connect with other scouts from around the world over the radio and internet. They also had the chance to learn and practice semaphore, morse code and other communication skills by trying to build the same LEGO construction as their teammates. There were multiple chatrooms where other scouts from all over the world got to speak to one another and swap experiences. They got to play games and test code cracking skills. The furthest radio communication we achieved was Florida, USA at a total distance of 6,600kms. The event was a great example of how Scouts across Northern Ireland are connecting, learning, and developing skills for life in new and exciting ways. We topped off the International badge making Portuguese custard tarts, which were absolutely delicious!



We also tried our hand at pumpkin carving just before half term, and, ahead of Remembrance Sunday, a member of the Royal British Legion came to talk to the Scouts and Explorers about his time in the Armed Forces. It was very interesting, and everyone asked challenging questions.

We sent four scouts on a Patrol Leader Training camp, where they spend the weekend with other scouts across Northern Ireland learning about different leadership techniques, engaging in teamwork, delegation and hopefully realising how much work their Leaders do!

Hilary and Samantha



Morning Call

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday

Informal Worship 10.30am to 11.30am

Tea and toast at 10am

in the Church Hall

This term Beavers achieved their Space and Experiment badges. They learnt about the planets in our solar system, playing games, watching videos and creating a paper model of the planets. They enjoyed making constellations with mini-marshmallows and the phases of the moon with Oreo cookies! They enjoyed eating the materials too! Beavers learnt about gravity by making parachutes and launched our own rocket outside the church hall!



Our young leader, Christopher, showed us some of the science experiments he does at school, with Beavers having a go at making circuits and learning about kinetic energy.

Did you know out of the eleven people to have walked on the moon, ten were former Scouts? There may be a future astronaut amongst our Beavers!

At the end of October, we pitched tents in the church hall for our annual Beaver camp. We had games, snacks and a movie before a good night's sleep. The Beavers achieved their Outdoors and Camp craft badges. This year we did a sponsored camp for the Simon Community, raising £150 for the charity.

After half term we planted some acorns in the church hall grounds and look forward to seeing oak saplings emerge. We also marked Remembrance Day by learning about why we commemorate the day and we painted poppies.

Until Christmas Beavers will be working towards their Faith badges, as well as enjoying Christmas crafts and activities.

Thanks to Christopher and Vanessa for helping out this term. Big thanks to Adam, who will be stepping back after Christmas, for all his work over the last year.

Mags and Adam





The Cub Scouts have had a busy and exciting winter term in Broughshane. The group embraced a wide range of activities that helped members learn new skills, grow in confidence, and enjoy plenty of outdoor fun.

Early in the term, the Cubs worked hard to practise DIY skills, learning how to safely handle tools and complete simple practical tasks, efforts that were proudly rewarded with their well-earned DIY badges. We also kept active every week with plenty of football and dodgeball, giving everyone a chance to burn off energy and learn teamwork.

The Cubs also put their culinary skills to the test, whipping up delicious banoffee pies from scratch, an activity that was as enjoyable to make as it was to eat! We also made the most of the last days of summer with a visit to the local park and a nature walk, where the group explored the outdoors and learnt about the wildlife around us.

A 'big thank' you to all leaders, helpers, parents, and Cubs for making this term such a success. We look forward to even more adventures in the months ahead.

Ash & Chrissy



Our focus has been the theme 'Express Myself' and learning about both communication and innovation. Not only do we talk about who we are, but we also show who we are through things we create. Activities have included artwork to welcome

Reverend Marcus Hart & family (check out our bulletin board in the church hall), designing robots, creating puppets & experimenting.



We also marked Remembrance Day with our victory garden theme. The girls made poppy crafts and learnt about the lifecycle from seed to plant to seed dispersal.

This term we have had the joy of hosting Marta, a young helper from Spain, who has been here on an exchange programme, staying with one of the Rangers. As she heads back home, we are so thankful for her time and support and wish her well for the future!

The unit continues to thrive, with several new girls joining this term, and more on the waiting list. We are blessed to have so much interest. If you are interested in working with these bright, friendly and lively girls, we would love to welcome new volunteers too!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or registering a girl, please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the appropriate pathway.



Lori, Siobhan, Emma & Zara



It has been a very busy time since we started back after the summer break. We have been doing a lot of Unit Meeting Activities (UMAs) and some of us have been completing badges at home: well



done to Chloe, Evie, Imogen, Lottie, Isla and Alexandra who, between them, have clocked up twelve badges. We did a dance challenge and had lots of fun with a mime experience, trying to guess what we weren't saying! We 'clowned around' and baked cakes for the church Christmas Fayre.



The Brownies enjoyed a fun hedgehog-themed residential at Dunluce Guide House. Activities included baking hedgehog cupcakes, learning about hedgehogs, making cosy hedgehog homes, and exploring Dunluce Castle, which was very windy but great fun!



We created our own victory garden to mark Remembrance Sunday. We were delighted to see our seeds grow and to taste the fresh leaves.

A huge thank you to Scott Robinson, Scout Leader, for his generous donation of uniforms for Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides. Your support is very much appreciated!

Jacqueline, Lynsey, Geraldine & Laura,



We welcomed some new Guides from Brownies and said goodbye to those who moved onto Rangers.

As always, we kicked off the term with a planning meeting, choosing our themes up to Christmas. We completed 'Toads in the Road', Promise activities and a 'Bucket List', when we thought about short term and long goals. We went on an imaginary trip with 'Travel Tickets', by plane, rail and ferry until we reached a destination, completing challenges to earn the next ticket.



Life can be stressful with school, homework and exams, so we learnt about resilience and talked about how we relax. We finished the activity with postcards to ourselves with a stress or worry on one side and a solution on the other to take home.

'Animal Advantages' had us thinking about privileges and how we can play our part in making sure people are treated equally. We became tourists again in 'A City Walk' thinking about exploring a new city, being a thoughtful visitor and considering possible risks. We acted out some scenarios - it was great fun.

We made our own 'Top Trumps' cards for 'Top Comms', the theme was communications, and we assigned scores for things like speed, privacy, how modern it is, range of features and fun factor. We continued with the theme of communications with 'Charlie, Bravo, Alphabet' when we learnt the phonetic alphabet and its uses. We made cup and string telephones - very retro!

For Remembrance our theme was 'Dig for Victory', making our own mini gardens which we planted and decorated. The leaves tasted very good!



'Global Goalie' got us thinking about the changes we can make to protect the future of the planet. And we baked some cakes for the church Christmas Fair.

As you can see, we have had a busy term so far, with more to come between now and Christmas.

If you would like to join in the fun, please register by visiting the Girlguiding website at

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

Hannah, Laura & Geraldine



We began the Autumn term, planning and preparing a variety of activities. We



welcomed a new Ranger who moved up from Guides, and our small group has eight members. We also welcomed Marta from Spain: she was taking part in an exchange with a local school. With new faces joining us, the room quickly filled with busy chatter and laughter.



We started the term with activities from the Ranger programme. One session focused on how to be a good mentor. We explored how to give people advice and how to listen to questions more thoughtfully.

Another evening was spent learning how to celebrate achievements. We held our own award ceremony, complete with speeches explaining why each Ranger had been chosen for their award. A leader acted as compère for the evening - although the only thing missing was the glamorous dresses! We discovered that while we are very good at celebrating other people's successes, it can be more difficult to recognise our own!

We also explored some alternative art techniques: using needles, we carefully pricked designs into banana skins to create artwork from the bananas going black. We also tried 'Scribbler': turning simple doodles into imaginative masterpieces.



The theme of Remembrance this year was 'Dig for Victory', so we created our own mini-gardens including cress and broccoli, and we added colourful bunting to finish them off.

We explored making sport accessible for everyone. We played a lively game of seated volleyball, which proved trickier than expected, especially as we couldn't move around very easily - and it was rather hard on the knees!

We worked hard to complete the activities for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and presented our expeditions to the rest of the unit. Congratulations to Cathy and Philippa, who achieved Silver Awards, and Caitlin, Elizabeth, Zara, and Ellie on gaining Bronze Awards.

Cathy & Geraldine

Who's Who Organisations		
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



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."

We work according to this policy using the laid down Code of Practice.
 It is incumbent on St Patrick's to create a safe environment for children.

If you have any concerns relating to Safeguarding,
 contact a member of the Safeguarding Panel

Who's Who at St Patrick's	
Rector	Rev Marcus Hart
Honorary Secretary	Julie Thompson
Honorary Treasurer	Steven Ewing
Rector's Church Warden	Dennis Taylor
People's Church Warden	Beth Clyde
Rector's Glebe Warden	Gavin Mark
People's Glebe Warden	Vacant
Parish Administrator & 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

BIG
journeys
BEGIN
 WITH
Small
STEPS

LET YOUR
dream
 BE YOUR WINGS

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)



Can you help?

We need your help to keep
the Church grounds neat and
tidy – including lawn mowing,
leaf clearing and general
tidying up.



Please speak to the
Church Wardens



JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS **AT** **ST PATRICK'S**

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST FT. SPECIAL GUEST

Sunday 14th December | 9am

CAROLS IN THE PUB

Thursday 18th December | 8pm | The Thatch Inn

NATIVITY

Sunday 21st December | 11:30am

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT (UNITED)

Sunday 21st December | 6:30pm

MIDNIGHT CANDLELIT COMMUNION

Wednesday 24th December | 11:15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday 25th December | 10:30am

JOY
TO THE WORLD

CHRIST
IS BORN



