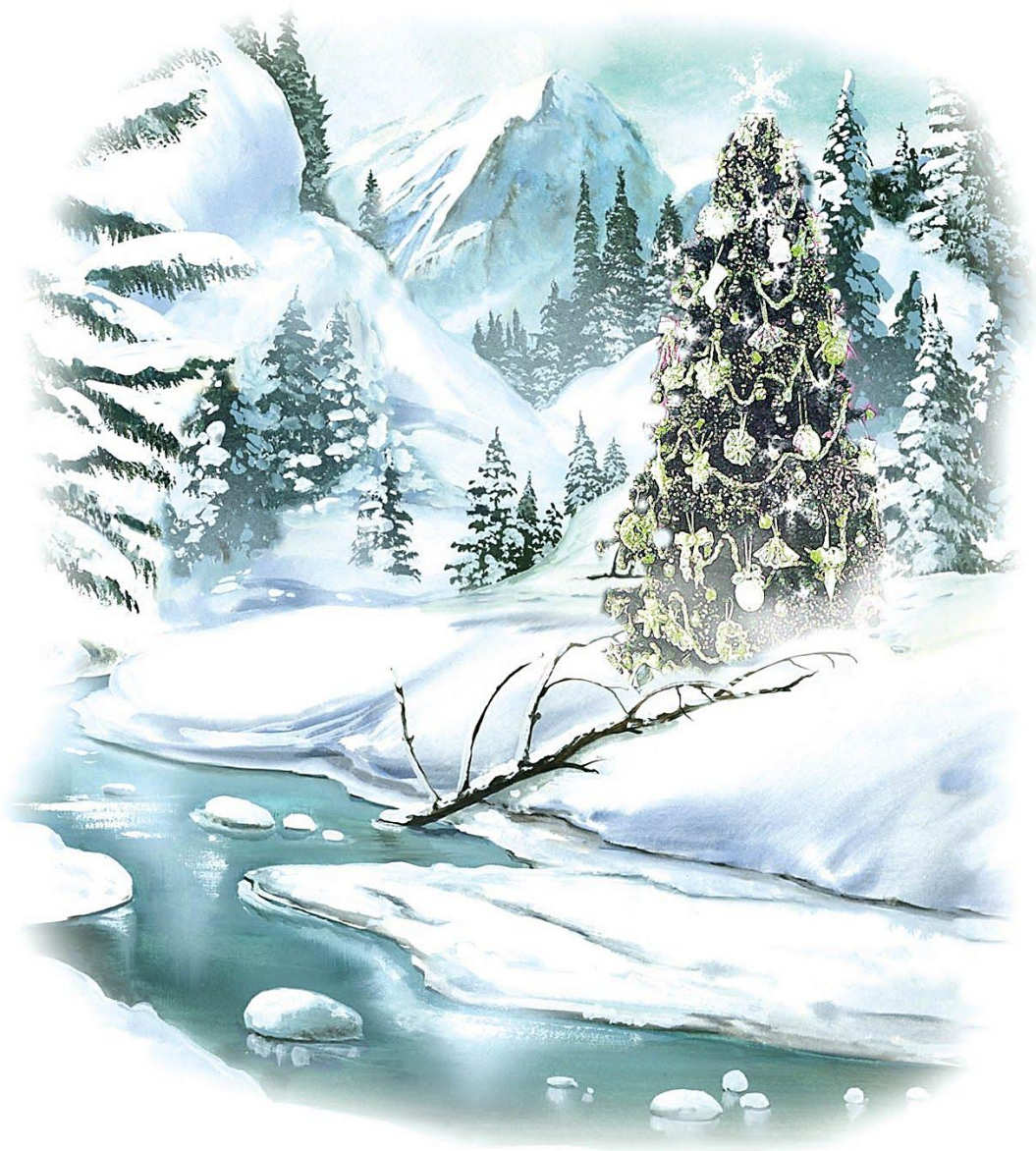


# St Patrick's Parish News



**Winter 2023**

## The Rector writes.....

In November the Church had its 'Mind Matters' conference, looking at mental health. As a Church family, we have partnered with Inspire Wellbeing ([www.inspirewellbeing.org](http://www.inspirewellbeing.org)). It may be an odd way to open a Winter, or, more precisely, a Christmas letter from the Rector. Still, in this world filled with anxiety and depression, a world grappling with mental health, the Christmas message offers us the hope of a God who knows what it means to be human in all our struggles. John encapsulates it beautifully with those famous words:

*"...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..."*

John speaks of the Creator and Sustainer of all things, taking on the fullness of the human experience, warts and all. The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews presents the Incarnation as Jesus as being able to *"...empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are...."*. In the words of Glenn Scrivener, the Christmas message is:

*"...This God in the Manger uproots all our notions:  
A heavenly stooping, divine demotion.  
Born in a stable, wriggling on straw,  
Fully committed to life in the raw..."*

This brings me back to the issue of mental health, because, in Jesus, we have a God who knows our struggles, including our anxiety and mental anguish. He feels the range of human emotions from love to loss and abandonment. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he sweated like droplets of blood, showing extreme stress and anxiety. Here is a God who knows all our struggles and what it means to be human.

Often, we can be carried away with the romance of Christmas - a babe in a manger, all very sanitised - but I want to suggest to you that the Christmas message is hard-hitting and challenges our notions of God. It means God is drawing near and sharing our world with all its beauty and hardships, including mental health.

Your Friend and Rector

*Andrew*



# Parish Register

## Holy Baptism

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2023:**     **Olly Alexander Doherty**  
Son of David and Lisa Doherty

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2023:**     **Daisy Rhea Doherty**  
Daughter of David and Lisa Doherty

## Holy Burial

**29<sup>th</sup> September 2023:**     **Elizabeth (Lily) Taylor**  
Wife of the late George,  
Mother of May and Jonathan.

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023:**     **Elizabeth (Lizzy) Marwood Calderwood**  
Wife of the late Alec,  
Mother of James.



## **Foodbank**

Thank you to all who have contributed to our foodbank appeal over the last few months. However, the need remains great, so please keep your donations coming, using the foodbank boxes in the church porch or in the church hall foyer. Those who run the North Ballymena Foodbank, based in Ballyloughan Presbyterian Church, really appreciate our support.



## Crash Helmet

*“...That wee man on his bicycle...”* is how I have often been known. I have cycled all my life, so when I came north after ordination my bicycle came with me. I got to know my first parish cycling around the Rathcoole Estate at the height of the troubles. When I moved to East Belfast, I was at home cycling around the city and then when I became Rector of Eglantine I was in and out to Lisburn. For many years my bike and I were a familiar sight around Ballymena. However, when I made regular trips to Nepal, I always hired a bike and loved cycling amidst the chaotic traffic in Kathmandu.

For most of my cycling life I never wore a crash helmet, simply because such things were not considered necessary – a bit like when seat belts were not considered necessary in cars. Then things changed, but I was a bit slow off the mark. My family remedied that, presenting me with a crash helmet one Christmas. Thankfully, I was not too ‘dyed in the wool’ to take the hint. It made sense, so I started wearing it and have done so ever since. In fact, I would feel very strange if I did not have it on my head.

I often cycle to services of worship and clearly the crash helmet accompanies me. Now, while I have sometimes entered church and forgotten that I am still wearing my bicycle clips, I am not aware of ever going in still wearing my crash helmet. Yet, maybe I should!

I wear my crash helmet when I am cycling because you never know what might happen when you are out on the roads. Should I not wear it in church because you never know what might happen in worship. And no – I am not thinking of getting beaten up by fellow parishioners! When we come to worship, we come to honour God and to meet the living God.

Could we expect that anything might happen? Maybe God might turn us upside down, maybe God might shake us, maybe he might lift us up. God wants to transform us and sometimes God may wish to change us in dramatic ways. Of course, we can approach worship expecting nothing to happen. Yet, can we encounter the living God and be unmoved?

Maybe we could issue crash helmets as we enter church as a reminder that this worship could be transformative!

*Stuart Lloyd*



A man dressed as Santa Claus is sitting on a wooden chair. He has a long white beard, wears a red hat with white fur trim, a white shirt, red suspenders, and red trousers. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. To his right is a decorated Christmas tree with red and gold ornaments and red bows. A small white reindeer figurine is visible behind his head.

# BREAKFAST WITH **SANTA**

**Sunday, 10th December  
Church Hall at 9:00am**

We will also be accepting gifts for our annual NSPCC Christmas campaign, for anyone who wishes to contribute

Please confirm attendance via the Whatsapp Groups or speak to the Rector

**Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult**



## St Patrick's Mothers' Union

Cathy Doig, Branch Leader and All Ireland Social Policy Contact for the Northern Dioceses, attended the Annual Gathering of Mothers' Union in York in September. It was wonderful to be with over 700 members from all over the world and to hear about the fantastic work being carried out by our charity to improve the lives of families around the world.

We welcomed three new members, Valerie, Helen and Emma, at the Communion service in October, and we hosted the Mid Connor Area Service at which the preacher was Rev Dr Andrew Campbell. Afterwards our visitors enjoyed a lovely supper.

The November meeting focused on the 'Rise Up' campaign against domestic abuse (Recognise, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite, Prayer) and



we launched our pyjama appeal for the Women's Refuge in Ballymena. We are asking each family to donate one pair of pyjamas (women's and children's) as part of our commitment to support the local Refuge. You can bring the pyjamas to church or to the hall anytime up to Christmas and we

will deliver them.

Our AGM will be on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm in the Rooney Room. Everyone is welcome to come and find out more about the work of Mothers' Union.

You can find out more about what is happening in Mothers' Union, in Connor Diocese, Ireland and Worldwide by going to [www.connormothersunion.org](http://www.connormothersunion.org) or [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)

**Respond**  
**Inform**  
**Support**  
**Empower**

**Unite**  
**Pray**



**RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse** is Mothers' Union's new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse. The letters of RISE UP stand for **Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite** and **Pray**.

Our aim is to make sure that activism against domestic abuse and gender-based violence happens 365 days a year and not just

during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in November and December.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone from any walk of life, even the educated, the affluent, both women and men. Abuse can and does happen anywhere. Unfortunately, some abusers use the Bible to justify their actions and abused people often feel they should stay with an abusive partner.

We want to raise awareness that this not OK. In St Patrick's Mothers' Union, we will take part in the RISE UP challenge and aim to bring about change. We hope to complete the Bronze award by the end of 2023.

You can find out more from the website [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org).

If you have been affected by domestic abuse or any form of violence, or are concerned for someone else who has, please contact the **Northern Ireland Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline: 0808 8021414**



**Involving men in committed, responsible, empathetic fatherhood greatly reduces violence against children and women.**

Darío Ibarra Casals,  
Uruguay



#16Days @MenCareGlobal

**MenCare**



# Clergy News

Congratulations to Melanie Sloan who was ordained Deacon on 3<sup>rd</sup> September in St Anne's Cathedral.



Shona Bell was also ordained Deacon at the same service to serve in Holy Trinity, Ballywillan.

Melanie's son, Finn, was appointed a junior organ scholar in St Anne's Cathedral on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, though he still plays from time to time in Broughshane.



Andrea Cotter has just been appointed to her first incumbency as Rector of Leckpatrick and Dunalong in the Diocese of Derry & Raphoe.

We wish all of them well in the next stage of their spiritual journey.

Everyone needs a person to whom you can actually tell the truth when they ask, "How are you?"

—TINKU RAZORIA



"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."

— Christopher Robin







# **SUNDAY CLUB**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Sunday, 10th December**

Breakfast with Santa  
Church Hall at 9:00am  
Children will present gifts for NSPCC

### **Saturday, 16th December**

Christmas Party  
The Sports Hut, Ballymena  
1:00pm to 2:30pm

### **Sunday, 17th December**

Nativity  
in Church at 11:30am Service





# Saint Patrick's Youth



Hebrews 12:2

**SPY in the Morning (Bible Study)**

Every First and Third Sunday of the month at 10.00am to 11.00am

**SPY in the Evening (Youth Fellowship)**

Every Second and Fourth Sunday of the month from 7.30pm to 9.30pm



The youngest members of our church family will have their Christmas Party on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00am–11.30am.

If you are bringing a little one to the party, please let Cathy Doig or Emma Erwin know by the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

We are looking forward to our 'Reindeer Rodeo' with Sarah.

Tots will start back on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the usual time of 9.30-11.30am.



SPREAD ENCOURAGEMENT LIKE  
**GLITTER.**  
THAT STUFF STICKS!  
YEARS LATER YOU'LL STILL FIND  
IT ALL OVER THE PLACE.

When life knocks you  
down, roll over, and  
look at the stars ★



# St Patrick's Broughshane Beavers



In September, we welcomed five new Beavers and a new leader, Lyndsay, to our Colony. We started the term getting to know each other and learning what it means to be a Beaver. We learnt about the Beaver Promise and the Badges that can be earned. We held an Investiture Ceremony just before half term, and parents were invited to see Beavers make their Promise.



This term we have worked towards our Cook and Creative badges. We have learnt about healthy eating and made posters to encourage others to watch what they eat! For the Creative Badge, we have made a shoe box

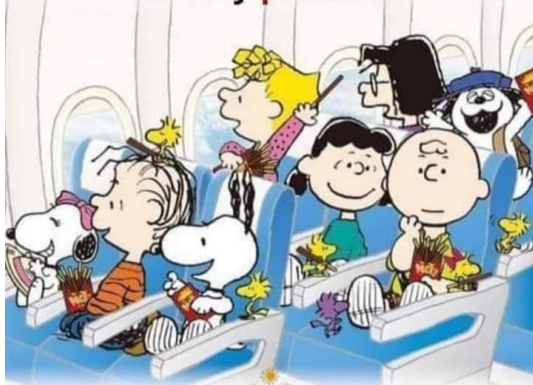
city, nature faces and Halloween decorations. We marked Remembrance Day by making a Poppy wreath.



In November we held our annual camp in the church hall. We played games, did crafts, learnt about knots and made s'mores. We finished with a movie and a good night's sleep. This year we decided to make our camp a sponsored camp for the Simon Community. Thanks to Derek and James for helping with camp and to our young leaders, Josh, Christopher and Toby, for all their help this term.

*Mags & Lyndsay*

Be grateful for every second of every day that you get to spend with the people you love. Life is so very **precious**.



Before going to sleep every night, forgive everyone, and sleep with a clean heart.

## St Patrick's Broughshane Scout Group



Following our most recent appeal for leaders, I am very pleased to say that Samantha has joined the team. However, the St. Patrick's Scouts group would still welcome additional leaders to strengthen the sections and also, hopefully, start a squirrel drey.

The Scouts and Explorers have been completing an interesting programme focusing on a range of skills for life, including map reading, phonetic alphabet and DIY activities.

We hosted the Slemish District 1<sup>st</sup> Response course. We would like to thank James Linford, a Girlguiding trainer, who gave up his time to deliver this course. The Explorers are continuing with their volunteering as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. They are also completing the Explorer Scout Young Leader training, one of which is the equivalent of the adult 1<sup>st</sup> Response.



We were delighted that six of our Explorers have been selected to join forty eight others from Slemish District, who hope to complete their Gold and Silver expeditions by canoeing

the Dordogne River in France next summer. At the recent Christmas Fayre in the village some of the Explorers raised funds by selling Christmas decorations.



*Derek  
Group Scout Leader*

Knowledge will give  
you power,



But  
good character  
will give you respect.

**Old friends are gold.  
New friends are diamond.  
If you get a diamond,  
don't forget the gold!  
Because to hold a diamond,  
you always need a base  
of gold!**



St. Patrick's Rainbow Unit got off to a great start in September: the girls focused on the Explore theme - Have Adventures and the Reflect theme - Know Myself.

We have enjoyed several outdoor activities, learning about our beautiful surroundings at St. Patrick's Church and Houston's Mill. We are so fortunate to have these spaces on our doorstep to enhance our experiences.



We are also learning about things that make each of us unique and how to celebrate our own qualities and those of others.

In the coming weeks we will be getting crafty for Christmas and working towards making the Rainbow Promise!

We have welcomed several new girls to Rainbow's this term and still have a few places available. If you know a girl aged 4-7 year old please get in touch with Lori through

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

Lori





# St Patrick's (Broughshane) Brownie Guide Unit



This term welcomed several new Brownies and they are all thriving. We also had some girls make their Brownie Promise. They all did so well!



We have had an array of indoor and outdoor activities this term. It has been so much fun still being able to do activities outside! These activities have taught the

girls how to work as a team, learn more about each other, as well as learning about their individual positive qualities. We have also



been doing Halloween inspired activities and Christmas crafts for our Guides and Rangers table at Broughshane's Christmas Market.



Thank you to our parents and volunteers for their continued support. If you think you could help us by volunteering a small bit of your time, please get in touch.

*Emma, Laura, Geraldine & Laura*

Where there is Kindness, there  
is Goodness. Where there is  
Goodness, there is Love. Where  
there is Love, There is Magic.



*- Tinker Bell -*

©Disney

**EVERYBODY NEEDS  
A HUG  
LET'S KEEP IT GOING.**





## St Patrick's (Broughshane) Guide Unit

We have been very busy this term with our Skills Builder and Unit Meeting Activities, concentrating on Know Myself and Express Myself. We also found time to decorate stones for the Guide garden - pop down and have a look! We made paper spider webs & eyeballs from marshmallows for Halloween! We participated in the church service on Remembrance Sunday by carrying flags and reading.



We have been very fortunate to have girls chosen to represent Girlguiding Ulster on International Trips in 2024: two girls are going to Yorkshire and to Our Chalet in Switzerland.

Three of our Rangers are also going away. The total cost will be around £13,000.00!

We have already started fundraising to help support them. We made cards and decorations for the Broughshane Christmas Fair. Parents made cakes and buns for the stall which made a staggering £852.35. Thank you to everyone for their support – especially to mums Nichola and Claire, who ran the cake stall. It is a fantastic start!



A fireside quiz is also on sale and available from any member and in some outlets in the village. Please support our young members if you can.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy & prosperous 2024.

If you would like to join us for lots of Fun and Adventures, please speak to a leader or visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

*Hannah, Emma, Carrie, Geraldine*

“Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out.”

John Wooden

## Slemish Look Wider Group – Ranger Guide Unit



We welcomed Philippa and Megan, who moved up from Guides, and we hope they have just as much fun as we do. Our favourite activity was Scribbles: we drew a scribble and passed it on to a neighbour, who made a picture out of it - they went from silly to very artistic!

We completed Speedy Scavengers finding various items that fitted various descriptions from the car park. A slight twist - we had to do it in the dark! We held a 'food evening' and made cookies and biscuits. We completed Halloween crafts, our favourite being peg doll figures.



We did Remembrance activities - learning about code breakers, Morse Code and what Girlguiding contributed to the war effort. We also remembered those who gave up their lives for us - it was a

reflective time.

The latest Adventure was a weekend at the Ranger Cottage at Lorne Estates. We had a great time filled with Christmas fun. Zara from Guides joined us and we hope she will join us



next year. We started with Pizza and a Christmas movie. After a very late night we did a 'wet' treasure hunt around Lorne. In the afternoon we completed a Skill Builder recycling old clothes, and then made Christmas crafts to sell at the village Christmas Fair. Money raised will help those heading off on International Trips in 2024.

A Christmas roast dinner and board games finished off Saturday night. We tidied up on Sunday and headed home, weary but very happy. Thank you to the leaders for organising everything.

*Cathy & Geraldine*





## Safeguarding Trust Panel

Sandra Adams  
Andrew Campbell (Rector)  
Philip Cummings  
Victoria Thompson

<b>Sunday Club</b> (Primary Schoolers) Lyndsay Williamson	<b>Rainbow Guides</b> Lori Hartman	<b>Beavers</b> Margaret Carson Lyndsay Craig
<b>SPY</b> Andrew Campbell	<b>Brownie Guides</b> Emma Taggart Laura Barr Geraldine Linford	<b>Cubs</b> Jay Russell Carrie Harish
<b>Mothers' Union</b> Cathy Doig	<b>Guides</b> Hannah Aldridge Geraldine Linford Emma Taggart	<b>Scouts</b> Neil Hall
<b>Tots</b> Cathy Doig Emma Erwin	<b>Ranger Guides</b> Cathy McCaig Geraldine Linford	<b>Explorers</b> Derek McKillop



<b>Who's Who at St Patrick's</b>	
Rector	Andrew Campbell
Hon. Secretary	Richard Reade
Hon. Treasurer	Sarah Gamble
Church Wardens	(Rector's) Dennis Taylor
	(People's) Beth Clyde
Glebe Wardens	(Rector's) Alan Brown
	(People's) Steven Young
Fire Warden	James Linford
Sanctuary Flowers	Yvonne Little
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, Tommy Douglas, Emma Erwin, Geraldine Linford, Gavin Mark, Kathryn McGall, Jonny Nelson, Julie Thompson, Stephen Tuff.





## Church Services

### Sundays



**Holy Communion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30am

**Morning Prayer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30am

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

**Family Service:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30am

Facebook and YouTube Weblinks are available on  
[www.stpatricksbroughshane.com/online-sunday-service](http://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**

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)



## **Parish Magazine – Spring 2024**

**Articles for the Spring 2024 edition  
should be with the editor by**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**

**Please email them to**

**[geraldine@linford1.net](mailto:geraldine@linford1.net)**







# **Christmas at St Patrick's**

**Morning Call Christmas  
Breakfast:  
9:30 am on 10th Dec**

**Carols by Candlelight:  
6:30 pm on 17th Dec**

**First Communion of  
Christmas:  
11:30 pm on 24th Dec**

**Christmas Family Praise:  
9am on 25th Dec**