



# THE MESSENGER

Magheralin Parish



**MAGHERALIN PARISH CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**@ 6.30pm**

**DECEMBER 2018**



*Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells, and cockle shells,  
And pretty maids all in a row.*

I would love to tell you something deep and meaningful about this well-told nursery rhyme, but I honestly haven't a clue what it means...My only insight into it comes from a Roald Dahl poem I read growing up, when a character called Mary was asked - Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow? And she responded quite inappropriately *"I live with my brat in a high-rise flat, so how in the world should I know?!"*

This Christmas we will be referencing a Mary who neither lived in a high rise flat, nor lived with a brat, but rather the mother of the only perfect man who ever lived, Jesus Christ. Our series is called "Mary, Mary, quite contrary" and will focus on the nature of the incarnation of Jesus being **contrary** to anything we could ever have expected! From the choice of place, of parents, even of political environment - God's circumstances of preference are opposite to how we would choose our son or daughter to be brought into the world.

I love how American writer Max Lucado, puts it:

*"...A spectacular thing occurred. God became a man...He who was larger than the universe became an embryo. And he who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl...God had come near.*

*He came...as one whose first cries were heard by a peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. The hands that first held him were un-manicured, calloused, and dirty. No silk. No ivory. No hype. No party. No hoopla.*

*Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of star-gazers, there would have been no gifts."*

Join in with all our celebrations and meditations at Magheralin Parish, and from the staff and from all at the rectory we wish you a blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year,

**Simon**

JOY

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

## CHRISTMAS AT MAGHERALIN & DOLLINGSTOWN

# MARY MARY

## QUITE CONTRARY



**Magheralin Parish** warmly invites you to our services and events this Christmas

### Thursday 13th December

7pm to 9pm Community Family Fun Night—free BBQ, cake, carols, crafts & more at Magheralin Parish Hall

### Sunday 16th December

5:00pm Christmas Fun Night for Kids at St. Saviour's Church Dollingstown (Ages 0-11)

6:30pm Contemporary Carols at St. Saviour's Church Dollingstown

### Sunday 23rd December

6:30pm Nine Lessons and Carols at Magheralin Parish Church

### Monday 24th December

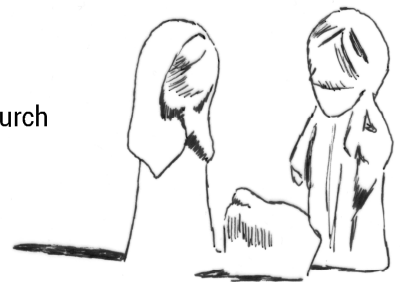
11:30pm Christmas Eve Communion Service at Magheralin Parish Church

### Tuesday 25th December

9am & 10:30am Christmas Day Worship at Dollingstown & Magheralin

### Sunday 30th December

6:30pm African Children's Choir at Magheralin Parish Church (Free Christmas concert)



# NEW PARISH ROLE

**Magheralin Parish** seeks to employ an **Outreach Operations Co-ordinator** working across the churches in the villages of Magheralin and Dollingstown.

St. Saviour's Dollingstown and Magheralin Parish Church are growing places of worship where God has so blessed the work to the point where an operations co-ordinator is required.

The appointed individual will have strong inter-personal and organisational skills, a wide-ranging understanding of IT and its applications (including databases) bundles of energy, an attention to detail and fully understand the vision given by our leaders

He or she will primarily have a deep love for Jesus Christ, a heart for the growth of the Kingdom and a desire to help the poor, the broken and the lost.

This post will be separately and fully funded by the Parish Outreach Fund and the parish seeks an individual willing to commit between 10 and up to 30 hours per week to the job.

Outreach activities currently operated by the church cover infants, children, youth, young adults, older adults and seniors and involve a growing army of volunteers. Co-ordinating and supporting these activities and people will be part of the role.

If you're feeling called to this work then please in the first instance forward by email a CV and no more than 300 words on why the role appeals to you, to the Rev Carlton Baxter at [carltonb@icloud.com](mailto:carltonb@icloud.com) by midnight on December 14, 2018.

Short-listing and further communication will follow after Christmas and the early part of the New Year.

## Feeling called?





**30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 – 6.30pm-8pm**  
**The internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir**  
**will be performing in Magheralin Parish Church**



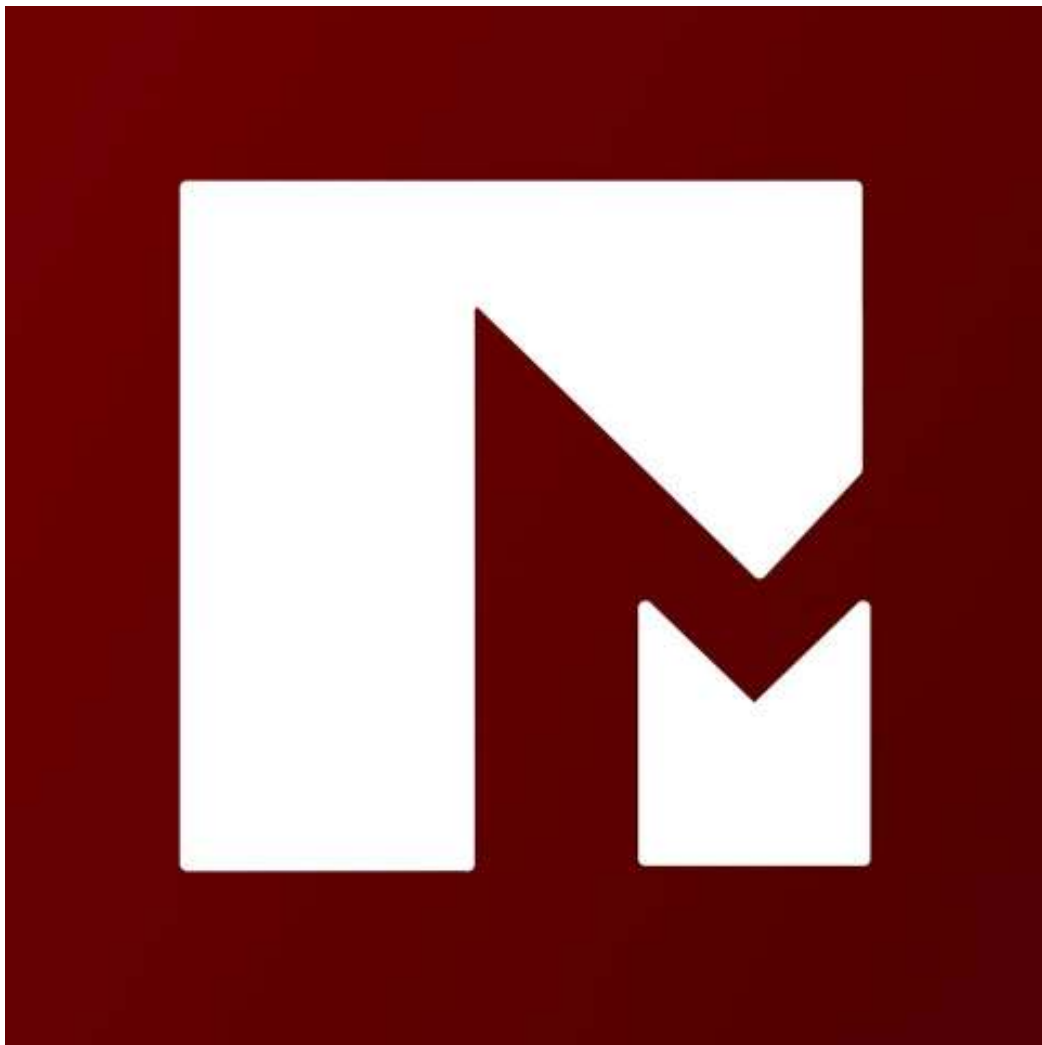
**The African Children's Choir stole the hearts of the nation during their uplifting performance of the number one single 'Sing' with Gary Barlow at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations - now, the latest Choir is bringing a new concert experience back to the UK!**

The "Just as I am" tour combines traditional hymns with African cultural sounds and a stunning visual story of God's faithfulness. This family-friendly event is full of inspirational stories, beautiful voices and lively African songs. A free-will offering is taken at the performance to support Music for Life programmes, including the continued education of the children you see in concert.

Music for Life, the official fundraising charity of The African Children's Choir, work in seven African countries and have educated over 52,000 children as well as impacting the lives of over 100,000 people through its relief and development programmes during its history. By focusing on providing education, Music for Life's purpose is to help Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow.

The African Children's Choir travels the world, acting as the ambassador for Africa's children. They have been privileged to perform before presidents and heads of state and have had the honour of singing alongside artists such as Sir Paul McCartney, Annie Lennox, Mariah Carry, Josh Groban and other inspirational performers.

Join us free of charge for this uniquely immersive worship experience set in our beautiful church. As you know seating is limited so arrive early to avoid disappointment!



## **ADVERTISE HERE**

**in our February 2019 church magazine**

- Your church magazine is being refreshed and beginning in our February edition you'll be able to advertise
- Advertising rates, sizes and conditions will be available in the New Year, reflecting a desire to cover costs only
- There will be 10 issues annually of a full-colour magazine with a print-run of 1,000 delivered directly to homes and properties throughout the parish.

EMAIL the church office at [magheralincoi@gmail.com](mailto:magheralincoi@gmail.com)  
in **JANUARY** for more details.

# BE BOLD THIS CHRISTMAS

IN a world where the accepted meaning of words is becoming increasingly clouded, one would imagine that the reliability of the Word of God would be a firm foundation for those in Christ to match faith and action in bold confidence.

But do they?

Language is one of the great 21<sup>st</sup> Century battlegrounds along with relationships. If the established meaning of words can be distorted and changed leading to fear in uttering them and the understanding of relationships altered to the point where self-doubt and self-interest are accentuated, then confusion reigns.

The use of language to both seemingly convey truth and lie has morphed into what is pejoratively called 'fake news', yet we arduously search for the truth, hoping to discern it amidst the morass of communications vomited up by our digital world.

Indeed we seek truth and need to rely upon it, especially when spoken by those who make decisions about our lives, lest they cry 'wolf' so often they are not believed when it is imperative that we do so for own safety and efficacy.

So when truth is available to those in Christ in our Bible and absolute confidence in it is unquestionable, why do Christians shy away from boldly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and live timidly in, and deferentially to, the world at large?

Could it be because they do not truly know the person of Christ in whom they profess belief? Or that they have not worked out that such a belief informs a way of living no matter what the cost? And, uncomfortably, there will be a cost.

When Paul tells Timothy he is 'convinced' by the person of Jesus Christ and knows in whom he believes (2 Timothy 1:12) to the extent that he understands why he suffers and can bear it, one wonders if those who profess Christ crucified can say the same?

Because surely if they do then our boldness in the face of a world full of lies and obfuscation would be such that our lives would shout Christ to all of creation and the consequences of doing so would be largely irrelevant. Result? Change would happen.

And if Christ went and prepared a place for us and is coming back to take us to be with him (John 14:1-3) – and we believe that – then living fearless lives in a world wary and increasingly sensitive to, changing relationships and language, would seem apt and indeed required! Result? Change would happen.

Take a current situation. Christians can't surely fall apart because of Brexit if they declare God is Sovereign in the world He created. It doesn't mean they should be silent, uninvolved and uninterested (irrespective of how one voted) but... fear the future or dread the consequences or indeed join those feeling hopeless? Not at all; He's in charge, it's His world and His hand is upon it all. Yes?

In fact victory was won at the Cross, Jesus is alive and those in Christ are living the eternal life now, so should boldly declare His will be done. Hope prevails.

Yet that is not our collective experience and so perhaps one needs to rediscover boldness in belief and action so that the 'living sacrifice' (Romans 12:1) that one is supposed to be is demonstrably visible in word and deed to a world scratching around for truth where it cannot be found, assurance when it does not exist and hope where it cannot be realised.

And of course we attempt to do all of this in love (Christ's selfless love) because without it our boldness becomes arrogance, our assurance worthless and our hope unbelievable.

So; know what you believe this Christmas, be convinced in The Saviour and thereafter... BE BOLD!

Result? Change will happen.

***Carlton***



## **A CHRISTMAS CREED**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself. I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. ***Amen***



# YOUTH WEEKEND

After glancing at my somewhat rounded physique in the mirror at Sligo in 2017 I decided it was time to get fit. It was either get fit or get fat, so I chose the first one. After purchasing a running machine in January to get me up to speed, I decided 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018 was the day that I would embark on my first ever park run. It was a tough run, but I lived to tell the tale. I've now completed twenty one park runs, yet each time I have consistently asked myself one question as I walked to the start line; that question being, "Why, oh why am I doing this??" It's not just the getting up on a Saturday morning, or the cold air that freezes my bald head, but it's the feeling half way round that I am about to die (okay, slight exaggeration). However, once I've passed the finish line, it's a different story. It feels great to be alive!! To have been part of a fantastic community event and to be reaping the benefits of a less rounded tummy. So I love it really even though it's a lot of effort!

Okay, you might be asking, "What has this got to do with the youth weekend?" Well running a youth weekend can be a little bit like running in a park run! This will probably be the twenty first youth weekend that I have run! Over the years, the thought of sleepless nights, non-stop activity and everything that goes with it actually raises the same question in my mind days before the event... "Remind me why am I doing this??" Yet in similarity to the park runs, the outcomes always are worth the effort put in. The reason I plan youth weekends is because of the steps forward I see youngsters taking in their faith, as well as the times together being incredibly fun! I love it!!

In Ashford other youth leaders would ask me why those in my youth group were so mature in their faith and going for it with God. My answer was that the youth weekends were a key part to it all. These are really special times away to address aspects relevant to the group that will enable them to see breakthroughs as a group, but also as individuals. Often when a group sees a breakthrough, all the individuals benefit. The activities and social times bond the group; but the worship, teaching and prayer ministry begins to raise the expectations of the group, as well as bring an understanding of God's Kingdom purpose and their identity within that. Additionally, youngsters have the opportunity to encounter God and their faith is spurred on as He speaks during the weekend. So although this is a big investment, in faith I'm putting both financial and spiritual resources into it up front. Additionally I am blessed with great leaders who see the benefits of these weekends and give their time and energies to see all those hopes come into fruition.

This March we have another youth weekend coming up. The title is "Stepping out on to the water," and will focus on youngsters examining where they are in their journey with God and asking what steps they will take towards Him. There is also going to be an element in the teaching that calls them to a deeper faith, to see that God is more real than they think and in fact closer than could be imagined. Faith in God is about risk and not caring what others think... a challenge that will test the heart! So that's

what the youth weekend is going to be about. We have developed a youth worship band that will be leading youth during our meetings. Myself (Paul), Richard and Amy will be speaking over the weekend, with loads of fun activities included.

So the investment is there for you. I hope you will join with me investing your prayers and support to this once a year opportunity.

The 2019 youth weekend is from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March (6:30pm a coach will be leaving from St. Saviour's Dollingstown) to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 4:30pm. The cost of the weekend is £80 which covers accommodation, food, coach, activities and prizes.



As we are fast approaching Christmas, preparations for our nativity are well under way. Please join us at the CLICK service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> when the children will perform the nativity they have been practicing.

Another exciting event happening on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December is the Kids Church Christmas party. It is from 5pm-6.30pm in Dollingstown and there will be crafts, food, fun and a special visitor! After the party, please join us in St Saviour's church for the contemporary carol service.

Dates for your diary

## **DECEMBER**

- 16<sup>th</sup>** - Click family service and nativity (11.30am)
- 16<sup>th</sup>** - Kids Church party 5-6.30pm Dollingstown
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** - no Kids Church
- 30<sup>th</sup>** - no Kids Church

## **JANUARY**

- 13<sup>th</sup>** - Kids Church resumes

Wishing you and your family a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

***Maralin Kids Church Team***

# FESTIVAL OF ART

Folks,

Just a quick note to update you on above event. Over the three days we sold 27 exhibits. This is a bit down on previous years, however, in addition to the art section Mary Wheeler sold over £200 worth of wooden objects and there were a number of woollen articles sold. The latter were mostly donated by members of the Friendship Group. A percentage from both these "stalls" comes to the Parish and of course we have income from the café section.

This year an additional feature was the photographic exhibition giving an insight in to Magheralin "old and new". This was compiled by local amateur historian, Aaron McCormick and generated much interest. I am grateful to Aaron for his contribution and for the time he spent both setting up and manning the exhibition. I suspect this event has put even more pressure on his time as I know a number of groups signed Aaron up for speaking engagements.

At the time of writing I can't provide a final income figure, since there are still monies to come in and expenses to be met. I should be in a position to have this announced within the next few weeks.

Having spoken about income, which is of course important, I feel this and other "fund raisers", are about much more. These events bring people, who wouldn't otherwise darken church doors, in to the Parish. Hopefully they feel welcomed to an extent where they may come back. I am pleased to be able to report to you that I heard numerous comments about how much people enjoyed being with us and how well they had been treated. That is to the great credit of all those who manned the exhibition and served refreshments.

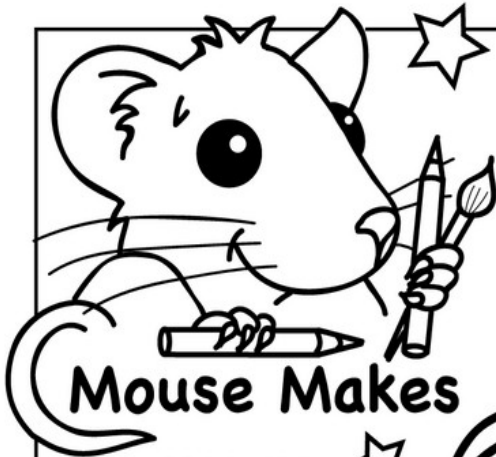
At this point could I say that I am deeply grateful to all who helped in any way. It was a privilege to work with you and to see how well we can all pull together for the common good.

I have to announce that this will be my last year as Coordinator although I will be at hand to help with future events.

I have no control over whether or not the Magheralin Festival of Art will continue to run annually in the Parish. I hope, however, that it will as many artists and visitors look forward to and are pleased to attend our event.

I can't say that running this event since 2007 has always been easy but it has been pleasurable and a lot of fun. I have also met a great number of people I wouldn't otherwise have got to know and whom I am now pleased to call friends. I wish whoever succeeds me all the best and I hope that the event will continue and go from strength, to strength.

***Colin McLoughlin***



## Mouse Makes

HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas  
story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

When Mary gave birth to Jesus she wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger. There were shepherds in a field nearby looking after their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. The angel said, *"Do not be afraid! Listen carefully, I bring you good news! Today your Saviour has been born, He is Christ the Lord."*

Then an army of angels appeared praising God. When the angels left the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Joseph and Mary and saw the baby lying in a manger.





# A FEAST OF FESTIVE MUSIC

Magheralin Parish Church

Monday, 10 Dec 2018, 7:45pm

*featuring:*

**Cadenza**

*Directed by Michael McCracken*

**Andrew Rowan – Flute**

**Gareth Lewis – Organ**

## **Tickets**

**£10** including light refreshments

**Under 16: free**

*Available from:*

- The Parish Office, 3 New Forge Road, Magheralin, Craigavon, BT67 0QJ  
magheralincoi@gmail.com / 028 9261 9569
- Choir members
- Michael McCracken: 07773 846028  
mikemusic.mccracken@gmail.com

Merry  
Christmas





# CAP IS WORTH MILLIONS TO UK ECONOMY

Recent research by the London School of Economics has found the debt charity, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) contributes £32 million to the UK economy. It seems that for every pound the Christian debt charity spent, it benefited the wider society four times as much.

The LSE also said CAP provides 'crucial' face-to-face support and goes far beyond simple debt advice.

Christians Against Poverty was founded by John Kirkby in Bradford in 1996. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor. Over the past 22 years, CAP has negotiated with creditors, set up budgeting systems and offered a lifeline to those trapped in debt.

Nowadays, CAP runs 645 various projects with churches across the UK, including job clubs and debt advice.

Our local Debt Centre Manager Ruth Waddell has just recently completed her training with CAP at their headquarters in Bradford. In order to run the Centre effectively & to its full capacity it is vital to have assistance from members of our church family to help and support the families we stand alongside. The love and support they receive is often the crucial element in encouraging a family to stick with working with CAP through both smooth & difficult times encountered along the way. Such roles include to become a befriender to a family, to become part of a team who would pray faithfully for the Lurgan Centre, its staff & volunteers & for specific issues families might be facing, to be part of a handyman team who could provide practical service to our families, to be part of a team who would help to stand alongside someone who had come to faith & specifically help provide support & discipleship.. the list is endless..

Ruth plans to hold an information evening in January 2019 where you can come along, learn more about CAP itself, learn about ways you might consider volunteering for the Local centre and all that that would entail. If you would like any information before that time please do feel free to contact Ruth at 07746 788 478 or by e mailing [ruthwaddell@capuk.org](mailto:ruthwaddell@capuk.org)

***Ruth***



# 1<sup>ST</sup> MARALIN BOYS' BRIGADE

This is my first article as Captain, so I hope you will bear with me as I find my feet.

Earlier this month, at our enrolment service, we said goodbye to Martin Wooster as he stepped down from the role of Captain after 9 years, however, we have not lost him completely as he will continue as an officer with 1<sup>st</sup> Maralin.

Martin is taking on a much bigger role outside of Maralin as he steps into the position of Battalion President where he will be responsible for 9 different companies within the Lurgan Battalion.

We also took part in the annual Remembrance Service, (the weather was kind to us, with a few guys braving their shirt sleeves). This year was a particular landmark date commemorating 100 years since the end of WW1.

We also had our annual "Marmite" event, the Company Photo, (you either love it or you hate it), personally I like it, even though the amount of effort that's required to get that split second shot is huge, it's great to look back and see how the boys have grown and more especially how the officers have aged 😊

As I write this article we look forward to two fantastic events; the first, is Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November when we will take the entire Company to Belfast's SSE Arena to watch the Belfast Giant's take part in the Friendship Four Ice Hockey tournament, with a stop off on the way home at MacDonald's (can't wait to see the look on the server's face when we order 60 happy meals).

The second is our big fund raiser event on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, which is the BB table quiz, with some great prizes for the winners; we are hoping for a great turn out. I will let you know how it went in the next issue.

We round off our BB year in 2018 with our Battalion Carol Service on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December in Magheralin Church at 7pm, everyone is welcome and we ask that you support the boys by attending; light refreshments will be available after the service in the church hall.

As we look forward to the holidays and a well-earned break, I want to take this opportunity to wish all the officers and boys, their families and the wider church community a joy filled, relaxing Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

Our first night back in 2019 is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

## **Other diary dates for 2019 are:-**

Battalion Prayer Breakfast; 1<sup>st</sup> Maralin; Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January @ 8am

Company Section Grade 3 Leadership Training (Part1); Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February @ 7:30pm

Junior Section Scripture Exam; Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Company Section Grade 3 Leadership Training (Part 2); Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February @ 7:30pm

*Your love means more than life to me, and I praise you.*

*As long as I live, I will pray to you.*

*Psalm 63: 3-4*

**Harry Lockhart; Captain**





## GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY



November was, as always, a busy month for G.F.S. On Remembrance Sunday, 11th November, we attended the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial and then afterwards in church. The following week, on Sunday 18th November, we again attended church with the Boys Brigade for our annual enrolment service, where we also commissioned our new Branch President, Kate Hayes. Our thanks go to all the girls who attended on both occasions and to everyone who sang, led the prayers and lifted the collection during our enrolment service.

On Saturday, 17th November, the diocesan singing competition was held in the church hall. Out of the five sections we won three cups. The cookery and floral art competitions were also held on that morning and the girls did extremely well in these competitions too. Our thanks go again to the girls for turning out for the competitions and for all their hard work and excellent results!

Our annual Christmas party will be held on Tuesday, 11th December, and hopefully Santa will be able to spare us some time out of his busy schedule to pay us a little visit. This will be the last G.F.S. of the year.

There will be no G.F.S. on the following Tuesdays, 18th December, 25th December & 1st January.

G.F.S. will resume after the Christmas and New Year break on Tuesday, 8th January.

The G.F.S. would like to wish all our members and their families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Peaceful New Year and to thank you for all the support you have given us throughout 2018!

***Jane and Lara***







Throughout November & early December we continue to teach the children about Joseph, how he was hated by his brothers because his father favoured him above his other sons, how his dreams made his brothers angry towards him, how they told lies to their father Jacob about his blood stained coat, how he was sold into slavery in Egypt, how Potiphar's wife had him thrown into jail and how he interpreted the dreams of the chief cupbearer & the chief baker when he was in prison but all the while Joseph knew that his life was in God's hand and He was in control. We will finish the year with the Christmas story. The memory verses coincides with these stories Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you said the Lord....."* and Hebrews *"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you"*. We try to encourage the children to learn these verses in the GNC each week and through the quiz, answer questions about the story as well as having fun.

Unfortunately we have had to say farewell to Daniel, due to work commitments on a Monday evening. Hopefully he may be back with us again in the near future, but the leaders would like to thank him for his hard work & especially his technology expertise.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Monday 24th & 31st December - NO GNC  
We resume again on Monday 7th January 2019 @ 6:30pm

The leaders would take this opportunity to thank you all for your support throughout the year and wish you & your families a very Merry Christmas & a blessed & peaceful 2019.

***The GNC Leaders***



At our November meeting Mrs Claire Stewart gave a talk on managing stress. She had trained with Cruise on facing the loss of a loved one and how to cope afterwards.

She showed us exercises to help relieve stress and to relax your body, which also helps with difficulty in sleeping. She was a very interesting speaker.

Our Christmas dinner is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in Edenmore Golf Club.

May you all have a happy Christmas and good health in the New Year.

***Isabel***

## **MADMEN**

**St Saviour's Dollingstown**

**MONDAY 14TH JANUARY  
at 8pm**

Dollingstown Lounge  
Twelve Ordinary Men

**SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2019  
at 9am**

Kingdom Men in St. Marks, Portadown  
Contact Mervyn Cordner for further  
information & booking



***Mervyn***





# CHARLENE'S PROJECT



CREATING  
BETTER FUTURES



FUNDRAISER

# Big Festive Fry

Saturday 15 December 7.30am – 12 noon

Dollingstown Church Halls

Plan to come to the 8th Big Festive Fry and help us make a difference in the lives of children in Uganda

Creating better

futures for children

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE MASINDI CLUSTER PRIMARIES

- Eight neighbouring schools struggling with few resources
- 6,500 children with little hope of progressing beyond P7
- High drop out rates as classes can exceed 100 children
- Girls not receiving an education as early marriage is common
- Teachers having to travel long distances to school
- Eight Primary Schools with no secondary school



## ATTENTION BIBLE BOOKWORMS

Our BIBLE STUDIES continue this month as we explore Malachi on Wednesday evenings and 2 Timothy on Friday mornings.

The Wednesday evening studies are held at 7.45pm in the Minor Hall in Magheralin and the Friday morning studies are held at 10.30am in The Lounge in Dollingstown.

Please note that both studies will end for Christmas on Wednesday, December 12 and Friday, December 14.

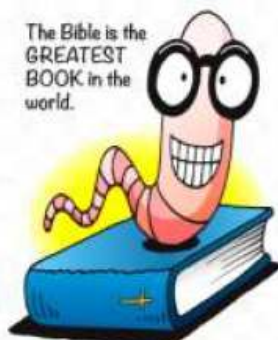
Studies will resume on Wednesday, January 9 and Friday, January 11.

If you've never been to a Bible Study before then please choose to do so; it's all part of your growth as a disciple of Jesus Christ. And remember no one has to speak up unless they want to. You can come along, enjoy some fellowship, feed on the word and leave. No one is ever put on the spot! We'd just love to have you there.

The studies on Wednesday and Fridays will always be in different parts of scripture, so you can have a double 'dose' in the week if you so choose.

Have a great Christmas.

**Carlton**



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH – MAKE IT A DATE

WELL, you certainly seem to be enjoying the community senior citizens lunches this year.

The numbers coming out to the meals held alternately each month in Magheralin and Dollingstown are fantastic and continue to grow.

Coming up on December 11 is the annual **Christmas Lunch**, which is the largest one in the year and held in the parish halls in Magheralin.

It promises to be a great day. Here's how it will unfold:

- 12 Noon – Holy Communion in the Minor Hall with speaker Richard Lyttle, our Youth Outreach Worker.
- 1pm – Full **CHRISTMAS DINNER** in the main hall – forget your breakfast that day and don't plan for tea – you'll be stuffed
- 2pm – The choir of Maralin Primary School join us for some carols
- 3pm – time to go home

We're really encouraging you all to come along to the **Holy Communion** at 12 noon. It allows us all to bring a proper perspective to the lunch that follows and an opportunity to be still in the face of bustling Christmas preparations and honour our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

So start the day at **NOON** and enjoy it all.





## DOLLINGSTOWN

In Kidschurch we are practicing for our JAM Nativity service which will be on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December when every child in Kidschurch will be involved. We hope you will come along to celebrate with us as we think about Walking with Jesus on his birthday.

Our Christmas Fun Night will also be on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec from 5.00pm to 6.30pm in Dollingstown. As usual we will have food, crafts and a visit from Santa. The lounge area will have messy and sensory play for babies and toddlers so every age will be catered for! We would love to see as many of you also join us for our Contemporary Carol Service at 6.30pm when some of our teenagers will be joining the drama group Play it by ear and taking part in this service. A busy day but full of opportunities to join in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas!

Kidschurch resumes on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019

On Behalf of the Kidschurch and Jam teams we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

**Diane**



Julie Currie was our speaker at our November CLICK & JAM services. Julie is the Diocesan Youth and Children's Worker and is no stranger to the parish. At JAM the topic was Walking with Jesus when we don't know what to do. Julie encouraged us to first talk to Jesus and then to talk to our friends.

CLICK was a bit different this month because it was BB & GFS enrolment. The boys and girls listened intently as they were reminded that even though we are many God made us, He knows us and He loves us and that He wants us to know and love Him in return.

As well as listening well and answering enthusiastically it was great to see and hear the members of the BB & GFS take part in the service, reading, singing and in the acts of enrolment. Well done to all the girls and boys and their dedicated leaders.

Our next CLICK & JAM will be on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December when our subject will be 'Walking with Jesus on His birthday. We will have our Nativity during our services.

We look forward to seeing you all then.

### **CLICK & JAM teams**

**JAM:** Dollingstown 9.30am

**CLICK:** Magheralin 11.30am



## SHOEBOX APPEAL

A big thank you once again to those parishioners who made up the shoeboxes this year. A total of 64 shoeboxes were received from Magheralin and Dollingstown Congregations. The boxes were brought to Waringstown Presbyterian Church hall. A group of helpers, including several parishioners from Dollingstown, were able to sort 623 shoeboxes which had come from local churches and schools in the area. These boxes will be going to Albania. The total number of shoeboxes from Northern Ireland will be around 35,000 and will eventually reach Eastern Europe, the Ukraine and Romania.

Please continue to pray for the transport and distribution of the boxes in the coming weeks. We know that the shoeboxes will give much pleasure and enjoyment to those who will receive them. The Shoebox Appeal is part of the ongoing ministry of Samaritans Purse an organisation which seeks to bring aid and share God's love in many countries which have suffered as a result of natural disasters and political unrest. Further information on the work of Samaritans Purse can be found on their website [Samaritans-Purse.org.uk](http://Samaritans-Purse.org.uk).

***David and Daphne Coe***



## PETITION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Over 25 years ago the Barnabas Fund was established to support persecuted Christians in Islamic countries. By 2004 the scope had widened to support persecuted Christians in Vietnam, Sri Lanka, North Korea, Myanmar (Burma) and India. Over the last 500 years the U.K has led the world in establishing freedom of religion and spreading it to other countries. Yet today freedom of religion is being significantly eroded in the U.K.

The Barnabas Fund are asking supporters and friends to sign a petition to bring in a new law to protect religious freedom in the U.K. It is hoped to have at least 100,000 signatures to present to the Government by 31st December. There will be petition forms in both Churches over the next few weeks and we hope many will want to sign this important petition. Your prayerful support will be greatly appreciated for this appeal.

We thank God for answered prayer for the Christian woman Asa Bibi in Pakistan who has been cleared of blasphemy by the Supreme Court. Asa Bibi was in prison for almost eight years under a death sentence. We pray that she will know God's protection at this time along with her husband and two daughters. It is hoped that Asa Bibi and her family will be able to move to a safe destination somewhere in the West once the legal process is complete.

Info at [barnabasfund.org](http://barnabasfund.org)

***David Coe & Ruth Porter***



## **Volunteers sought for Diocesan Safeguarding Trust roles**

As part of our commitment to the safety and welfare of children and adults at risk, we are looking for volunteers to fill important Safeguarding Trust roles in the diocese.

### **Safeguarding Trust Evaluators**

Diocesan evaluators usually work in teams of two. They meet with parish panels by appointment and carry out an evaluation of the implementation of Safeguarding Trust in the parish using an Evaluation Form. They make approximately 6 – 10 visits per year with each visit lasting 1–2 hours.

The work of the evaluators is supported and facilitated by CPO and Safeguarding Board. Travel and related expenses are paid by the diocese and training is provided by the Board of Education. Diocesan evaluators are required to attend a meeting once a year.

A commitment of 3 – 5 years minimum is desirable but not mandatory.

Current evaluators include teachers, police, social workers, nurses etc, though not exclusively. Someone actively involved in their own parish and familiar with Safeguarding Trust would also be suitable.

**Please register your interest with the Diocesan Secretary, Roy Lawther, as soon as possible.**

Email [rlawther@downdromorediocese.org](mailto:rlawther@downdromorediocese.org)

### **Diocesan Safeguarding Trainers**

The diocese is required to appoint individuals who will deliver training to parish staff and volunteers within the diocese. Trainers may work individually or in teams of two. In some instances, it may be that some individuals will be happy to deliver both child and adult safeguarding training, but that is not a requirement. Trainers will be trained and supported by the CPONI and the Safeguarding Board.

The Safeguarding Trainers will be required to deliver approximately 6 training sessions per year and only in the Diocese of Down and Dromore. They can work in teams of two or individually if preferred. Training will be coordinated and resourced by the diocese which will also cover travel and related expenses.

Trainers ideally should have experience of delivering training. Experience in work, paid or voluntary with children or adults and related experience of safeguarding is desirable.

**Please register your interest with the Diocesan Secretary, Roy Lawther, as soon as possible:**

Email: [rlawther@downdromorediocese.org](mailto:rlawther@downdromorediocese.org)

## PEACEFUL PRAISE ON A SILENT NIGHT

200 years ago this Christmas Eve a parish priest near Salzburg in Austria and his organist wrote a new carol for the midnight mass. The priest, Fr Joseph Mohr, provided the words in a poem he had recently written. The organist was Franz Xavier Gruber who created a tune of haunting beauty. The carol, *Stille Nacht*, was duly sung at the service.

We don't know what the congregation thought of it, though I bet someone said, 'I can't stand all these new tunes!' But the simple words and wistful melody were to become one of the world's favourite carols, translated into hundreds of languages, 'Silent Night' as we know it.

My father told me of his experience in the First World War, when on Christmas Day the British troops heard the sound of German soldiers singing *Stille Nacht*. They responded with *Silent Night*, and the sacred words echoed across the blood-stained no man's land. It is a carol that breathes peace, quite unlike the traditional ones that stir us to action – 'O come all ye faithful', 'Hark the herald angels sing'. This German song is about the infinite peace of nativity – Mary pondering her heart all that was happening and the shepherds returning to their fields. The birth of this royal baby went largely unnoticed. There were no crowds, no cheering, no processions. But for two centuries people have sung this precious song of peace to recall that silent and holy night.

## ROOM

(Luke 2:6,7)



There was no room for Him.

There is no room.  
In a world full of  
grasping, acquiring and keeping,  
of rights and demanding and self-  
centred living,  
there is no room for Him,  
the Child who is God.  
The world is full.

And yet...without Him,  
without Jesus,  
this full world is empty.

Make room.  
Invite Him in.  
Make room.  
Find life in all the fullness  
Christmas offers –  
Love and hope and joy and peace.  
Emmanuel,  
God with us and in us, always.

Make room!

*by Daphne Kitching*

## PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS JOY

*Loving, generous Father,  
this Christmas, please help us to keep  
you at the centre of our preparations  
and celebrations. May our thankfulness  
for the gift of your precious son, Jesus,  
motivate all that we think and say and  
do. May the joy of His coming shine  
from us and attract those who don't  
know what Christmas really means, so  
that they want to find out!*

*In Jesus' name and for His glory,*

**Amen**



## O LITTLE CAFÉ IN BETHLEHEM...

Connect Cafe, an innovative project launched in 2017 by JEO Ministry, creates space for relationships, outreach and discipleship in Bethlehem.

JEO, an organisation that seeks to reach out to all people in the Holy Land with the message of Jesus, is led by Church Mission Society local partner Rami Fellemon.

JEO runs ministries that aim to help Arabic people to connect to the gospel in ways that make sense to them, using various media, tours and Christian bookshops.

They have a particular focus on seeing younger people in the Holy Land following Jesus, growing in their faith, and becoming pillars for Christ in their communities.

The vision for Connect Cafe came out of a process of considering how best to serve young people in Bethlehem against a backdrop of many challenges.

As Cafe manager Raj explains: "One in two young people are unemployed, according to the economic statistics. In addition, local people have restrictions on their movement. The only place where youth can hang out is within the confines of their town, at cafes or restaurants, especially due to the limited recreation facilities or green areas. And so we came up with the idea of a cafe."

Connect serves freshly made food – including local and international dishes – as well as a variety of hot and cold drinks.

Customers come from Bethlehem and surrounding areas, as well as Jerusalem. People of all ages and faith backgrounds come to the cafe, though it is particularly popular with the 14–25 age group.

The journey from idea to opening began with a venue in an easy-to-reach central location. Once the necessary renovation and decoration work was done, they recruited and trained staff – making sure that the relationship staff have with customers would express the café's Christian ethos.

This seems to be having an effect, as the cafe has been developing a loyal customer base and receiving glowing reviews. Customers have commented:

*"Delicious food, kind staff, great fellowship with friends! I love this place."*

*"Wonderful food, wonderful coffee, wonderful atmosphere! I can't wait to go back!"*

*"The best taste and best service, and we enjoy our family time at Connect Café."*

Alongside individual customers, the cafe hosts a number of different groups: ministries with young women and widows who meet for fellowship and Bible study, needy families are invited to enjoy a meal and experience loving care from the JEO team and young businessmen meet regularly to help one another in spiritual and character development. They also facilitate events, including music nights.

Through one programme at the cafe, two young women drew nearer to Jesus and are now growing in their faith. They encountered God as they met with others to read the Bible.

Pray that there would be more such stories. Read more at [churchmissionsociety.org](http://churchmissionsociety.org)

# DECEMBER 2018

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	9.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	Holy Communion	-	Magheralin
	5.00pm -	Prayer Time	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Evening Service	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	Engage - Red Door	-	Magheralin
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	2.00pm -	Bowls Club	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Good News Club	-	Dollingstown
	8.00pm -	Prayer Union	-	Magheralin
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm -	Friendship Group	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	GFS	-	Magheralin
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30pm -	Playdays	-	Dollingstown
	7.45pm -	Midweek Bible Study	-	Magheralin
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	BB Battalion Carol Service Hosted by 1 <sup>st</sup> Maralin BB	-	Magheralin
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am -	Friday Morning Bible Study	-	Dollingstown
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am -	KnitWits	-	Dollingstown
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am -	Holy Communion	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Evening Service	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	Engage - Red Door	-	Magheralin
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm -	Bowls Club	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Good News Club	-	Dollingstown
	7.45pm -	Cadenza A Feast of Music	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	Prayer Union – Hutchinson Suite	-	Magheralin
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	12noon -	Holy Communion – Minor Hall	-	Magheralin
	1.00pm -	Senior Citizens Christmas Community Lunch	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	GFS Christmas Party	-	Magheralin
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30pm -	Playdays	-	Dollingstown
	7.45pm -	Midweek Bible Study	-	Magheralin
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Magheralin
	7.00pm -	Community Family Fun Night Free BBQ, Cake, Carols, Crafts & More	-	Magheralin
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am -	Friday Morning Bible Study	-	Dollingstown
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	7.40am -	Big Breakfast Fry – Charlene’s Project	-	Dollingstown

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am -	JAM Nativity	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	CLICK Nativity	-	Magheralin
	5.00pm -	Christmas Fun Night	-	Dollingstown
	6.30pm -	Contemporary Carol Service	-	Dollingstown
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	8.30am -	Holy Communion	-	Magheralin
	9.30am -	Morning Worship for Christmas	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	Morning Worship for Christmas	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Nine Lessons and Carols	-	Magheralin
<b>Christmas Eve</b>				
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm -	Christmas Eve Holy Communion	-	Magheralin
<b>Christmas Day</b>				
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.00am -	Christmas Celebration	-	Dollingstown
	10.30am -	Christmas Celebration	-	Magheralin
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	African Children's Choir	-	Magheralin
		<i>Admission Free</i>		

## JANUARY 2019

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	Holy Communion	-	Magheralin
	5.00pm -	Prayer Time	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Evening Service	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	Engage - Red Door	-	Magheralin
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	2.00pm -	Bowls Club	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Good News Club	-	Dollingstown
	8.00pm -	Prayer Union	-	Magheralin
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	1.30pm -	Friendship Group	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	GFS	-	Magheralin
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Dollingstown
	7.45pm -	Midweek Bible Study	-	Magheralin
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	BB	-	Magheralin
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Friday Morning Bible Study	-	Dollingstown
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00am -	KnitWits	-	Dollingstown
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am -	Holy Communion	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Evening Service	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	Engage - Red Door	-	Magheralin

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	2.00pm -	Bowls Club	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Good News Club	-	Dollingstown
	8.00pm -	Prayer Union	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	MADMEN Twelve Ordinary Men	-	Dollingstown
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	1.30pm -	Friendship Group	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	GFS	-	Magheralin
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Dollingstown
	7.45pm -	Midweek Bible Study	-	Magheralin
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Magheralin
	2.30pm -	Bereavement Café	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	BB	-	Magheralin
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Friday Morning Bible Study	-	Dollingstown
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am -	JAM All Age Worship	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	CLICK All Age Worship	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Evening Service	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	Engage - Red Door	-	Magheralin
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	2.00pm -	Bowls Club	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Good News Club	-	Dollingstown
	8.00pm -	Prayer Union	-	Magheralin
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	1.30pm -	Friendship Group	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	GFS	-	Magheralin
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Dollingstown
	7.45pm -	Midweek Bible Study	-	Magheralin
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Magheralin
	12.30pm -	Community Lunch	-	Dollingstown
	6.30pm -	BB	-	Magheralin
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Friday Morning Bible Study	-	Dollingstown
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	8.30am -	Holy Communion	-	Magheralin
	9.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Dollingstown
	11.30am -	Morning Worship	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Evening Service	-	Magheralin
	8.00pm -	Café Church	-	Dollingstown
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	2.00pm -	Bowls Club	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	Good News Club	-	Dollingstown
	8.00pm -	Prayer Union	-	Magheralin
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	1.30pm -	Friendship Group	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	GFS	-	Magheralin
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Dollingstown
	7.45pm -	Midweek Bible Study	-	Magheralin
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	10.30am -	Playdays	-	Magheralin
	6.30pm -	BB	-	Magheralin

# MAGHERALIN PARISH DIRECTORY

## STAFF

Rector                                      Rev Simon Genoe                                      Tel: 9261 1273  
07955 356 055

***Please note the Rector's day off is Wednesday – if you would like to leave a message please call the Parish Office and we will make sure it is passed on.***

Curate                                      Rev Carlton Baxter                                      Tel: 028 9261 9569  
e-mail: carltonb@mac.com

***(Please note Carlton's day off is Monday)***

Youth Pastor                                      Paul Martin                                      Tel: 07963 014 335

Young Families Worker                                      Rebecca Cromie                                      Tel: 07553 051 261

Youth Worker                                      Richard Lyttle                                      Tel: 07576 556 951

Parish Office Secretary                                      Ann King                                      Tel: 9261 9569  
07761 029 604  
e-mail: magheralincoi@gmail.com

Office Opening Hours                                      Monday – Thursday                                      9.00am - 2.00pm  
Friday                                      9.00am - 12 noon

Caretaker                                      David Kerr                                      Tel: 9261 2327 – 07510 223 932

Organist                                      Gareth Murray                                      Tel: 07743 652 661

Safeguarding Trust Panel                                      Raymond White - Phyllis Rusk - Doreen Waddell

Church Wardens  
Magheralin                                      Rector's – Jamie Haughton                                      People's – Jackie Irvine

Church Wardens  
Dollingstown                                      Rector's – Ross McCartney                                      People's – Barry Taylor

Glebe Wardens                                      Rector's – Terry Nicholson                                      People's – Nicola Waddington

Select Vestry                                      Mark Bailey, Bertie Campbell, Mervyn Cordner, Linda Dawson,  
Mildred Dawson, Judith Kinnen, Harry Lockhart, Tom Maginnis,  
Raymond Neill, Basil O'Malley, Stephen Trew, Alan Waddell,

Mission Co-ordinator                                      Aileen Smyth                                      Tel: 3832 9956

Gift Aid Secretary                                      Godfrey Ellis                                      Tel: 3882 0296

Honorary Treasurer                                      Raymond Neill                                      Tel: 3888 1017

Honorary Secretary                                      Mildred Dawson                                      Tel: 3832 6962

Graveyard Secretary                                      Oswald Ellis                                      Tel: 9261 1320



***If anyone is admitted to hospital please let the Rector or the Parish Office know as soon as possible so a visit can be organised.***



# From the Register

## Burials

*"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord"*

1<sup>st</sup> November 2018

Shona Haughton

## Sanctuary Flowers



**If you would like to provide Sanctuary flowers,  
please contact Caroline Dawson 9261 1596**

### **DECEMBER 2018**

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2018	-	The Flannigan Family
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	-	The Gregg Family
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	-	Norma & Natalie Alms
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2018	-	The Rusk Family
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	-	Anonymous

### **JANUARY 2019**

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	-	Linda Dawson
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	-	Anne Miller
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	-	Andrea Irwin
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	-	The Gregg Family

### **FEBRUARY 2019**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2019	-	VACANT
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	-	VACANT
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	-	VACANT
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	-	Rodney McCarthy



**A Ministry of Magheralin Parish**

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Parish Office	-	028 9261 9569
Nicola Whaley	-	07703 219 749
Fiona Elliott	-	07757 671 657
Edith Nesbitt	-	07803 127 762