
St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church
NOVEMBER
2025
ST PHILIP
AND
ST JAMES
HOLYWOOD

Parish Office
10am-12noon(reduced hours)
Monday to Friday
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BT18 9BX
Tel: 9042 3622
www.holywoodparishchurch.co.uk
info@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk

St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

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HON SECRETARY
Heather McCord

VICAR'S GLEBEWARDEN
Bob Cooke

PEOPLE'S CHURCH WARDEN
Chris McIlroy

HON TREASURER
Brian Beatty

PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN
Leslie Allen

MAGAZINE

The magazine is created by volunteers from the Parish.

Please contact the office for information about advertising, content or subscriptions. Subscription: £1/issue or £10/year.



The Vicar Writes

"Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9)

November is a month in which we look forward to the important business of looking back.

The early part of the month, possibly already completed by the time you read this, involves us gathering to mark All Saints' Day and to read the parish's memorial roll. We move on to commemorate the fallen from world conflicts, this year on Sunday 9th, in what is always a dignified and respectful observance in Holywood.

These significant moments help us to pause and reflect and in them I hope we find God's hand at work bringing peace. On the global stage- there may be some welcome signs of progress - but we lament the countless deaths of recent years. 40 years ago I genuinely thought the world was headed towards a more peaceful future but that has been severely challenged. Makers of peace seem very rare these days. In 2025 we prayerfully long to see God's hand in resolution to some of the seemingly intractable conflicts around the world.

On a personal level we need to experience a peace that comes as part of the endowment of God's Holy Spirit. Sometimes in loss and bereavement we wonder if peace can ever be restored to us - let alone joy and the other aspects of the fruit which the Spirit bears in us.

The good news? We are neither deserted nor helpless. While we confess our inability to manufacture peace on our own we are reassured that peace is not impossible. We entrust the world to God and we seek to support one another in life's hard times.

Please come and join us in times of intercession for the needs of the world in the many opportunities of each week. And, if you are wrestling with grief, I commend to you that our friends at Holywood Baptist church run a helpful programme for those who have been bereaved.

Let us seek to live and share the peace of God,

Yours in Christ

Gareth



Notes from the magazine team

Hello readers,

This is a largely practical update from me this month!

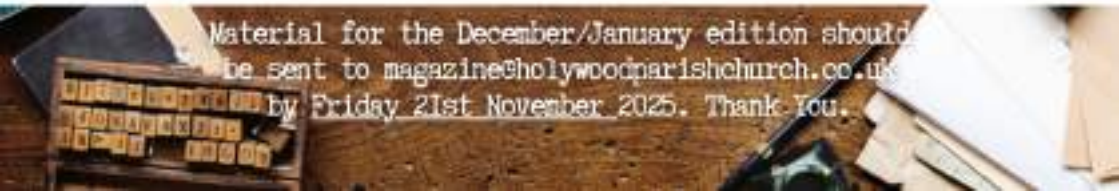
We've been down a valuable magazine team member this month so I would like to start by apologising if anything was sent in but got overlooked in the edit. A vital part of the production process each month is Pauline's work to collate all the contributions, ready for me to draw it all together at the end of the month. Her absence has been felt throughout the parish and many people have kindly stepped up to take some of the work from landing solely on Gareth's shoulders. As the parish adjusts to the staffing changes, please remember that, until further notice, the parish office opening hours will be Monday to Friday, 10.00am-12.00noon. You can also email the office on info@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk, however, it might take longer than usual to receive a response as fewer people manage larger workloads.

To help us manage magazine submissions, we've set up a new email address for all content to be sent to - magazine@holywoodparish.co.uk This account won't be monitored through the month, as it would take more volunteering hours than we have, but you should receive an auto-generated response to reassure you that your contribution has been received.

Please pray for Gareth and the staff team as they navigate this time of transition. For Emily joining the team, for Angela preparing for her new role, and for the ongoing search for a new member of the staff team following Cosmin's move to Banbridge. Please also pray for vestry as they work diligently in the background to ensure the safety, security and smooth running of the Parish.

Should you feel led to take a more active role in the Parish, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved - from sound desk duties on a Sunday morning, to decorating the church for special events (I hope you enjoy the Harvest photos montage!), to supporting Emily in her work with children and families. Many hands make light work and, particularly at the moment, more hands would be much appreciated.

Thanks and I hope you enjoy the magazine.
Sally



St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

Memorial Roll
2024 - 2025

Tommy Walmsley
Maureen Francis
John Jeffrey
Catherine Kay Farrell
Audrey Hunt
Elizabeth Conway
Margaret Johnston
Eileen Culbert
James Forsythe Brown
Catherine Hunter
Adrian Hall
Dougie Minnis
Boyd Kane
Margaret Hillis
Billy Hanna
Rosemary Crosslé
Francis Elliott
Dorothy Bussell
Jennifer McCullough
John McFadden
Maisie Reid
Paul Neill
Beatrice Wade
Harold Greer
Fred McMorris
Eddie Officer
Terence McCaw
Esther Walmsley
Jean Barton
James Donaghy
James Herron
Florence Hamilton

"For we believe that Jesus
died and rose again,
and so we believe that
God will bring with Jesus
those who have fallen asleep in him."

1 Thessalonians 4:14

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Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus

Staffing News



We have now welcomed our new team member, Emily Parker, to the role of Children's and Family Worker. The overlap in tenure with Angela Megarry will hopefully help Emily to get to know many of the children, their families and volunteers quite quickly - but please make Emily feel part of Holywood Parish by greeting her when you meet her and praying for her regularly.

We are looking forward to Pauline Clarke returning to the parish office after a period of recuperation. The office is currently working at reduced hours, Monday to Friday 10.00am-12.00noon.

Angela Megarry will transition into her role with Street Puppets Drug Awareness programme at the end of November. We hope that Angela will continue to be around Holywood regularly as we support this growing ministry at an exciting time in its growth.

Please also pray for the vicar who is actively seeking an ordained colleague to support the pastoral ministry of the parish.

Storehouse North Down

Thank you to everyone who brought along items as part of our Harvest celebrations. The trolley and hamper were overflowing with donations.

The trolley will remain in place at the back of the church, ready to take donations throughout the year.



Please consider picking up some extra items when doing your own shopping to support the work of Store House North Down.

Cut out and keep this list for your next 'big shop'.

- Tinned fruit
- Tinned veg
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothpaste (for adults)
- Tinned meat
- Cleaning spray
- Razors
- Beans
- Soap
- Tinned meals

STORE HOUSE


Harvest Thanksgiving 2025
PEARS
SOAP



'For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.' Romans 8v 19

We are reminded nature is not passive, it is alive in all cycles and we certainly got to see some of this on harvest Sunday. We were joined by Stephen Trew who led us into thinking about God and the wonderful world we live in.

In the church decorations we saw God's handiwork and his creativity through the eyes of those who threw themselves into celebrating this. We also had an outward look connecting with local groups. Thank you to Holywood CoFarm for providing the splendid vegetable produce (via Hope Hayes). Anyone can join for £10 a year and take part in volunteering and sharing in produce (www.holywoodcofarm.org). We were also blessed by 2 lovely planters made for us by L'Arche, courtesy of Gillian Walker. It felt a joy to be blessed by these organisations and we were encouraged by the 'harvest' brought to help others through Storehouse. We were all left wondering who the gentleman was who joined us beside the sound desk (and I heard he literally took the shirt off Gareth's back!).

Thanking God for another celebration of his goodness and provision in creation and for our creative church family.
Belinda Ballard



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Tea-Time Toccatas

The tradition of Teatime Toccatas continued recently with a heartwarming but all too short recital by Edwin, joined by Andrew Nesbitt on cello. Andrew is a busy professional cellist who plays with numerous orchestras, including the Ulster Orchestra, so it was a privilege to hear him and Edwin together. The Elgar organ was displayed to its full advantage right from the start, with an organ arrangement of Walton's famous *Crown Imperial March*, written for the coronation of King George VI and played subsequently at the coronations of both Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III.

One of the most familiar pieces in all the classical music repertoire came next, an aria from one of Handel's operas which appeared to be a song of praise for the shade of a tree, but known popularly as *Handel's Largo*. Andrew's singing tone on the cello perfectly captured the serenity of the scene and showed how a great musician can bring to life even the most familiar of pieces. Then came the energetic and vigorous *Tarantella* by William Henry Squire, and it was followed by the well-known *Vocalise* by Rachmaninoff, *A Song Without Words* in the most literal sense. Edwin concluded with another rousing organ march, which combined a theme of Handel's with a fugue in the baroque style. It was composed by the great French organist Alexandre Guilmant to showcase the opening of the organ at St Sulpice in Paris in 1862 and has remained justly popular ever since.



As always, Edwin prefaced each piece with interesting and humorous explanations which added to everyone's enjoyment of the music. And thanks to Pat and Billy Lee for the liberal provision of tea, coffee and cupcakes and other goodies, which greatly enhanced the camaraderie and fellowship of the occasion.

Keep your eyes open and diaries free for the next TeaTime Toccata!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

October Meeting - Camino de Santiago

When Rev John Cunningham sang "To be a Pilgrim" as a boy in Mersey Street Primary School, little did he realise that fifty years later he would be a pilgrim walking the Camino de Santiago. Translated as the way of Saint James, the Camino is not just one route but a whole network of pilgrims' ways all leading to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain, believed to be the burial site of Saint James, the apostle.

John was the speaker at our meeting on 1st October and he used photographs and stories of people he had met to illustrate his experience of walking the Camino. The route taken by John and his wife Linda was the Camino Francés, an almost five-hundred-mile walk through the Pyrenees from France. Undertaken because John and Linda felt they needed some time for reflection between leaving a very busy parish in Ballymoney and beginning their ministry in East Belfast, this was to be the first of their eleven pilgrimages.

Strenuous climbs, challenging conditions and beautiful scenery all play a part in the Camino experience but it was the people he met along the way who made the greatest impact on John. He felt able to help many come to terms with their personal situations as they walked beside him and found space to think and be with God. A photograph of the iron cross where people on the Francés Camino lay a stone from their own country representing a pain or hurt within them was particularly powerful.

The focus of John's talk, however, was his involvement in Chaplaincy. The idea to offer pilgrims who were not Roman Catholic spiritual support, pastoral care and the opportunity to receive Holy Communion came about when John was on a pilgrimage with a group of Anglican clergy. They worked to establish a good relationship with the Roman Catholic Church, which allowed Bishop Carlos of the Episcopal Church in Spain to arrange a sistership agreement. A sister church in Santiago lent a building on the site where Saint James is said to have preached and the chaplaincy was formed.

When the Episcopal Church of America became involved, they provided funding for a pension, or small hotel, with twenty-five rooms which helps to fund the chaplaincy. Now chaplains from several parts of the world offer their services on a two-week rota from March to November. English-speaking pilgrims of all Christian traditions have space for prayer, reflection and renewal.

Describing it as a privilege to minister in this way, John said the magic of the Camino is that it is truly ecumenical, all pilgrims are travelling in one direction, they all have one purpose. The Camino is all about people and all about Christ.



Admission of New Members
At the 9.45am service on Sunday 19th October we were delighted that Helen, Maria, Mary and Rosie became members of our branch.

We welcome them to the worldwide family of Mothers' Union.

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 5th November
Monthly meeting with Helen Thorman speaking on "Smugglers' Adventures". Members are reminded to bring a Christmas gift for Storehouse to this meeting along with menu choices and money for the Christmas dinner.

Wednesday 19th November
We are hosting the Autumn Council meeting for the Diocese of Down and Dromore at 7.30pm. This is a great opportunity to hear about Mothers' Union work throughout the Diocese and all members are welcome.

Saturday 29th November
Service in Saintfield Parish Church at 10.30am to begin the 16 Days of Activism.

Monday 1st December
Advent Carol Service at 7.30pm in St Dorothea's Parish Church.



The Church of Ireland GAZETTE

Reflections and highlights on the Church of Ireland's monthly magazine, by Betty McLaughlin

Paying Attention: Communicating the Church in a Digital Age

Editor, Clark Brydon, invites readers at this time of year to 'slow down and notice the Autumn trees blaze for a moment before surrendering their leaves, the evenings shorten and the harvest gathered in.' He went on to say that this is a season that trains us in attention. And perhaps that is precisely what the Church needs most just now: not simply more activity, but a more deliberate discipline of paying attention - to God, to neighbour, to creation, and crucially, to how we communicate.' He said we live in an age when messages fly constantly across our screens, yet clarity is often absent. Many churches still struggle to communicate well, to tell their story in ways that are welcoming and compelling. Paying attention means recognising that communication is ministry. Jesus himself paid attention with his words; his parables resonated with ordinary life'. The Editor reminded readers that the early Church grew not only through deeds but also through testimony - stories told and shared with conviction. Today, our testimony is as likely to be encountered on a screen as in a pew. 'If we neglect that space, we fail in our witness'.

Colours Laid Up for Irish Guards in Dundela

St Mark's Church, Dundela, witnessed a profoundly moving moment of remembrance and honour as parishioners and guests gathered recently for the Laying Up of Colours for the Irish Regiment of Foot Guards - widely known as the Irish Guards - marking 125 years of distinguished military service. The service on East Belfast's Holywood Road brought together members of the regiment, community leaders, clergy, and distinguished guests to pay tribute to the wide-reaching legacy of courage and sacrifice that defines the Irish Guards.

Longest-serving Bishop to step down

The Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton, the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, has announced that he will retire in 2026 after nearly three decades of episcopal ministry. Reflecting on this decision, the Bishop drew attention to the span of his ministry, "50 years within the Church of Ireland, including more than 41 years in Holy Orders, as well as his earlier years in lay ministry, serving as a singer, organist, and lay reader. [...] As the last bishop of the Church of Ireland to be elected in the twentieth century, it has been my calling, and joy to journey with you from the last millennium of our Lord into this new century".

A look inside Donegal's only boarding school

Nestled in the historic town of Raphoe, the Royal School House forms an integral part of the Royal and Prior School, one of Ireland's oldest educational institutions. Established by Royal Charter in 1608, the school has served generations of students from across Donegal. For families living in the county's more remote areas, boarding at Raphoe has long offered a vital opportunity: a home environment where children can thrive socially, spiritually, and academically. The boarding house today continues this mission, balancing centuries of tradition with the practical needs and pastoral care of modern life.

2025 Christmas Cover Competition
The Church of Ireland Gazette invites photographers, artists, and creative souls of all ages to enter their 2025 Christmas Cover Competition. This year's theme is 'Light Shines in the Darkness'. They invite you to express this profound meeting of joy and longing, light and shadow, through your art.
All entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Monday 17th November 2025.

Subscribe to the *Church of Ireland Gazette* for access to the full articles
Visit the *Gazette* website for more information: www.gazette.ireland.anglican.org
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ashaactivities

November is a very busy fundraising month for Asha.

On 1st Peter Crookes and Gareth Lewis are presenting a Musical Evening of fun and romance. We are most grateful to Peter and Gareth and also to the Crookes family as Helen is providing refreshments at the interval. On 25th November Helen's Bay Players are presenting a Christmas comedy 'Christmas Belles.' Our thanks are due to their producer, Rosemary Jayne Brangam, and to the players for their continuing support of Asha. Many of you have been impressed by the high standard of the players' productions and with Rosemary Jayne in the usual director's role we look forward to another impressive production. Music will be provided by Peter Miller and friends so even more Holywood Parish talent for us to enjoy. Tickets are available from https://holywood-parish-church.sumupstore.com

The Asha Support group are most grateful for the continuing generosity of all of you in Holywood Parish. It's always good to hear some feedback from Delhi. You may remember last April we decided to donate our funds to the Early Childhood Nutrition Programme. Dr Kiran was most grateful for our generosity and last May some of us joined the Asha team online for the Inauguration Ceremony. We recently received a message from Dr Kiran.

She writes, *"Early Childhood Nutrition Program is in full swing at Zakhira. Each morning, little ones under the age of 3 arrive with their mothers to receive a warm, nutritious meal—lovingly fed to them by their own mothers. The centres are filled with excitement as they play with toys that spark their young minds, and they are wrapped in love, affection, and the healing power of touch. These moments are building not just healthy bodies, but bonds of joy and trust. The mothers and their children cherish this time—it's become a beautiful part of their daily lives. Deepest thanks to all in Holywood Parish who have made this program possible through your generosity."*

Thanks to all who made this generous donation possible.
Hazel

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Visit of Bishop Moses Zungo
It was a joy to welcome Bishop Moses Zungo to a Wednesday communion service and Wednesday lunch in the parish on the 1st October.

Sadly, the tiredness of a busy travelling schedule had taken its toll on Mama Rejoice and she was unable to join the bishop in Holywood but it was great to introduce him to around 50 parishioners and friends. Thank you to the Mothers' Union and Wednesday lunch team for their hospitality.

The bishop was able to share some of the current challenges facing the church in South Sudan. It is always such a privilege to receive visitors and reinforce this real partnership.



Quills' Updates
One of the Quills' outreach resources is to show the Jesus film in the Zande language. This engaging portrayal of the story of the gospels is a really helpful way of sharing an overview of Christ's life and the hope he gives. It is a programme in which Andrew and Joanne share with Bible Society, the Episcopal Church and Mission Aviation Fellowship. They ask us to pray for effective communication using this medium.



From the registers



Bereavements

20th October 2025 Marion McCauley

20th October 2025 Hannah Waite

20th October 2025 Brian Leckey

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
Psalms 34:18

International Justice Mission

Date for your diary: We will be joined by IJM at both morning services on Sunday 16th November. We look forward to hearing more about their inspiring work.



November 2025

Sunday 2nd November
The Fourth Sunday before Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am	Holy Communion
11.30am	Holy Communion
5.30pm	Choral Evensong for All Saints-tide
7.00pm	Evening Worship

Sunday 9th November
The Third Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am	Morning Worship
11.30am	Morning Prayer
5.30pm	Compline
7.00pm	Evening Worship

Weekday Communion service every Wednesday at 10.30am

Sunday 16th November
The Second Sunday before Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am	Morning Worship
11.30am	Morning Prayer
5.30pm	Compline
7.00pm	Evening Worship

Sunday 23rd November
The Sunday before Advent

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am	Morning Worship
11.30am	Morning Prayer
5.30pm	Holy Communion Form 1
7.00pm	Holy Communion at Evening Worship

Sunday 30th November
Advent Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am	Morning Worship
11.30am	Morning Prayer
6.00pm	Darkness to Light Service

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