

MAY 2026

St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

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9am-1pm
Monday to Friday
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www.holywoodparishchurch.co.uk
info@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk

St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

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Stephen Evans

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Heather McCord

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Colin Maxwell

PEOPLE'S CHURCH WARDEN
Rosie Baillie

HON TREASURER
David Clements

PEOPLE'S GLEBEWARDEN
Leslie Allen

MAGAZINE

The magazine is created by volunteers from the Parish. Please send content to **editor@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk**

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



The Vicar Writes

I have been reading a book I got for Christmas called "A History of the World in 47 Borders".

There are chapters spanning the story of Ireland's partition, the break up of India, the boundaries of Israel which are so contested etc. but the chapter I have just finished and found particularly interesting was about timezones and the Prime Meridian. I have stood on the equator a few times but having stood on the line at the Greenwich Observatory I was surprised when the book helpfully explains that the line is … wrong. The actual meridian has now been measured with more scientific accuracy. It is some 100m+ away from where it is marked and it is moving, albeit imperceptibly.

It made me think, however, about how we mark time. There are always several significant dates for us to mark in May.

You may be reading this magazine after our St Philip and St James' Day service but ahead of the May Day festivities in town. You may be looking forward to Pentecost at the end of the month or have personal and family birthdays to celebrate this month.

In the Old Testament God tells his people, Israel, to mark the passing of days and months with festivals and rituals. There is a daily rhythm too which we mark at morning prayer with words like "The night has passed, and the day lies open before us" and "As we rejoice in the gift of this new day…" It is healthy not to take the grace of a new day for granted.

Psalm 90 says: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

In the business and routine and special days of life, let us acknowledge the moments God has given us and use them to his glory. If you would like some of my time I would love to meet up with you - please just get in touch,

Yours in Christ, Gareth

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Notes from the magazine team

Dear readers,

Summer is here! Making its presence known at the end of April, isn't it lovely to feel the warmth of the sun again?

In the magazine you can read about some great opportunities to learn and grow (Parish Fellowship and Evangelism series), but there are also plenty of opportunities to celebrate - Daithí's recommendation for ordination training, Thomas' Institution, Billy Lee's continued contribution to Parish life (In Conversation With...), the church grounds volunteer scheme's achievements, Exodus fundraising efforts, and the Glovers' recent wedding anniversary (At the Church Doors). There are some lovely creative contributions too - a poem from a magazine reader and two perfectly timed photos - one of a rainbow that has to be seen to be believed, and another capturing the cherry blossom just before the wind took it from the branches. I was particularly thrilled to see the cherry blossom photo arrive in the inbox (subsequently featured on the magazine cover) as I hadn't managed to capture it before the wind turned the tree to confetti! On the last sunday morning before the magazine went to print, I felt like a paparazzo, rushing to get final headshots for many of the articles. In the magazine you'll see a request for May Day photos. My hope is that we can have a more pluralist representation than simply the view through my camera lens! Thank you to all who continue to contribute each month. If you're thinking about submitting something but would rather speak to me first, please reach out. I'd love to hear from you. Another appeal you'll see is for Storehouse. Please check the list carefully to be able to best meet their current needs.

Lastly, a word of reassurance as you read on. If you find yourself reaching for your reading glasses when you wouldn't normally, fear not - I've reduced the default font size by one point this month! My hope is that the pages feel a bit more spacious and it allows more page lines for content. Please get in touch with any feedback - positive or constructive. It is all appreciated - particularly the lovely thank you card that was send to the team in April. We all really enjoyed reading it.

Wishing you all a happy and sunny May with plenty of sun cream (and lovely desserts on 10th May in aid of Christian Aid)!
Sally



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Thomas' Institution



Our associate minister, Thomas Murray will be instituted as rector of the grouped parishes of Castledawon and Ballyscullion on Tuesday 23rd June at 7.30pm and you are welcome to attend the service.

You are encouraged to arrive as early as possible as the capacity of Christ Church, Castledawson is limited. If you are keen to attend but need transport please contact the parish office and some carpooling can be arranged.

Details will follow of a farewell to Thomas and the family as we acknowledge their time in Holywood. Even after just a few months with us, we will miss them and their contribution to parish life. Thomas, Jodie and the children will appreciate your prayers and support.



Congratulations to Daithí

We are delighted that Daithí Greene has been recommended for ordination training in the Church of Ireland. Daithí attended a recent selection conference, which is a rigorous residential during which candidates and their sense of vocation are assessed.

Daithí is hoping to train on the part-time course which means he will be able to complete his training while continuing in parish ministry. Daithí is currently serving in the LAMP parishes around Downpatrick.

Confirmation 2026

Bishop David will be coming to Holywood in the late Autumn for a service of Confirmation. A course for candidates will begin in early September

Teenagers and young people should speak to Lorcan to express their interest. Those whom the prayer book calls "those of riper years" should speak to Gareth.

Please remember that confirmation is not only aimed at teenagers. I sometimes thing that it would be better named "Affirmation". It is about the church recognising that the Holy Spirit is working in a person's life and praying that they know more and more of his equipping for the Christian life. That is a great encouragement at any stage of life.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Church services have been to the forefront in recent Mothers' Union activities.

On Sunday 8th March many Mothers' Union members and friends made the journey to St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry, for a service of Holy Communion during which the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Most Reverend John McDowell, commissioned Mrs Kay Clarke as Mothers' Union All Ireland President. Also commissioned at this service was Mrs Lynda Thompson as President of our Diocese of Down and Dromore.

On Monday 23rd March in Seagoe Parish Church we had the Diocesan Festival Service with Linda carrying the banner for our branch (banner inset below). Always a very colourful occasion, this was a celebration of 150 years of Mothers' Union based on the theme of inviting people to become active doing God's work as a body together. The service was followed by a delicious supper and the opportunity to renew friendships with members of other branches in the diocese.

Closer to home, we gathered in our own church for the Wednesday service of Holy Week. Roberta read from St Luke's Gospel the account of a sinful woman washing Jesus' feet with her tears before anointing them with perfume. The parable which Jesus taught as a result of this event tells the story of the two debtors and illustrates God's mercy and forgiveness, which was the theme explored in the service.

Finishing on the topic of church services, we say a very grateful thank you to Carol Thompson for arranging the flowers in church so beautifully for us on Mothering Sunday.

Moving on to the month of May, there are several events to note. On **Monday 4th** May we have our customary stall at the May Day Fair. Then on **Wednesday 6th** May Clive O'Neill will speak at our monthly meeting on the history of Newtownards from the point of view of a market trader. The following week on **Tuesday 12th** May the Diocesan Spring Council meeting is being held at 7.30pm in Bangor Abbey and on **Wednesday 13th** May we travel to Belfast to see "Guys and Dolls" at the Opera House.



What an eventful month we have in store!
Barbara

Storehouse North Down - SPECIAL APPEAL

The Storehouse trolley remains in its usual position at the back of church. As always, all donations are gratefully received but this month we received a specific appeal.

They are in desperate need of hand soap, shaving foam and cleaning products. Wonderfully, they currently have an excess of beans, soup and pasta so please consider passing up on the tinned and dried goods in favour of the hygiene and household aisles this month!



~~Pasta~~
~~Beans~~
~~Soup~~
Shampoo
Conditioner
Toothpaste
Cleaning spray
Hand soap
Shaving foam
Razors

STOREHOUSE

Men's Society

We welcomed Dr Linda Webb, Consultant Phycologist, to our meeting in March and extended an invitation to the Mothers' Union to join us.

Linda's role is primarily to do with newborns and the dynamics of welcoming a newborn into the family, particularly firstborns. Such a change in the family affects the parents and grandparents. Linda welcomed those with questions to interrupt her during her presentation but our members proved rather shy! Our thanks to Dr Webb for her presentation and to the members of the Mothers' Union for their questions.

Next month's meeting is on 5th May where the eagerly awaited presentation is entitled "Magic Moments".

Robert Bussell, Hon Secretary. robertbussell@me.com 07710762323

St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church
KIDS

Another fun-filled GIGGLE is just round the corner! Please sign up with the QR code below and speak to Emily if you have any questions.



If you have any questions about children's and family ministry at Holywood Parish, please contact Emily Parker, Children's and Family Worker **emily@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk**

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Maridi

Bishop Moses has recently published a number of updates on school building projects and the drilling of wells for fresh water. These projects have been coordinated through Fields of Life and other donors. The diocese is also erecting new security fencing around Chaima Christian Institute with which our parish has a long association. Providing for basic needs like water and education brings transformation and hope to communities. Please pray for all those involved.









In personal news, he and Mama Rejoice are celebrating the graduation of one of their daughters with a degree in computer science.

Andrew and Joanne Quill's Visit



It was a pleasure to hear directly from the Quills during their recent visit to the parish. Joanne shared a tantalising glimpse into life in Ibba from the mud air strip to the mangos and passion fruit that are harvested each year. She also encouraged us to pray for Canon Emmanuel as he delivers the CHE programme.





During his sermon, Andrew challenged us to share God's message and grow our faith, starting in 'our own Jerusalem' but with a willingness to be called to the ends of the earth.

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In Conversation with... Billy Lee



This month, Hazel Henderson spoke to Billy Lee about some of the many ways Billy supports Parish life, ably supported by his family.

Billy is certainly a familiar face in church as he calmly leads our choir as they process to the choirstalls at the 11.30 service each week. However, Billy's duties in the parish don't start and end on Sunday morning.

Let's begin at the beginning. Billy was baptised and confirmed in Holywood Parish where he worshipped each week with his parents and sister, Elizabeth.

He has held many positions in church. He was People's Churchwarden for a year and a member of the property committee for 20 years serving as Vicar's Glebewarden. He accepted the position as Crucifer in 1991 and as we all know he rarely misses a Sunday.

He is currently chairman of the Men's Society, a position he has held for 15 years. He assists with setting up the hall for Pre-School Praise and helps serve teas, coffees and mulled wine at various events throughout the year.

Have you ever wondered who keeps our grass so neat and tidy? It's Billy and he's been doing this for 25 years.



But Billy isn't a one-man show. Pat and he were married in St Finian's in 1975. Pat is also involved in many of Billy's duties including catering and Men's Society where she is Treasurer. Pat, Billy and their son-in-law Gerard cater for a most successful Men's Society barbecue every autumn.

Pat and Billy have two daughters, Jennifer and Julie, sons-in-law Darren and Gerard and five grandchildren. Jennifer and Julie joined the choir as junior choristers. They are still committed members of the choir and recently they were joined by Jennifer's daughter, Cora. So it is in fact three generations of Lees serving in our Parish. Thank you, Lees!

Of course, Billy has many other interests. He's an accomplished flautist and rumour has it he's the number 1 Land Rover expert in Northern Ireland.

Clearly a man of many talents! Keep up the good work!
Hazel

The Church of Ireland GAZETTE

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

First woman bishop announces retirement

The woman who made history as the first female bishop in Ireland and the United Kingdom has announced her retirement.

The Most Reverend Patricia Storey, who became Bishop of the United Dioceses of Meath and Kildare in 2013, will be retiring on 31st July 2026, after what she termed the 'immense privilege' of twelve years of ministry in the diocese. The Bishop's consecration in 2013 was a milestone moment for women's leadership within the Anglican communion, and came at a time when the Church of England was embroiled in a long-running dispute over the appointment of women bishops. The move was seen by many to indicate a more progressive ethos within the Church of Ireland compared to the Church of England, where opposition to women bishops amongst traditionalists was a divisive topic at their General Synod of 2013.

With the appointment of Bishop Storey, the Church of Ireland made history and whilst at the time the Bishop admitted to feeling both 'excited and daunted' at her new role, she embraced her status as a pioneering figure throughout her time in office. As the only female member of the House of Bishops, the Bishop's departure will raise fresh questions about representation at senior level and the pace of change more than a decade after her historic consecration.

President opens national cathedral's new education and community space

Irish President Catherine Connolly paid her first official visit to Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, for the official opening of the Deanery Mews, a new community and education space within the deanery grounds.

The Mews occupies a site of exceptional historical significance. Formerly a coach house and stable, it stands adjacent to the building where Jonathan Swift lived during his time as Dean. Speaking to the large audience, the President commended all involved in the work, saying, 'It's wonderful to be here and just walking through this oasis of beauty in the middle of the city has had a calming effect on me and I hope it is something that can be shared with as many people as possible. The finished Mews is a great credit to all those involved in the project.'

New Mission Director for ICS

The Intercontinental Church Society (ICS) has announced the appointment of its new Mission Director, the Reverend Simon Cansdale, who is expected to take up the role on 1st September 2026. This appointment marks an important new chapter for ICS as it continues its long-standing mission to serve English-speaking Anglican communities across Europe, North Africa, South America, and beyond. The Reverend Cansdale served as Vicar of Christ Church, Winchester, since 2019.

Church of Ireland cost-of-living support hub
The Church of Ireland's Church and Society Commission (CASC) is drawing attention to its online cost-of-living hub, encouraging members and their communities to make use of the resource as fuel prices continue to climb amidst the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The hub page provides short videos, helplines, and links to price comparison websites to help reduce costs and increase disposable income. It was piloted in 2021, when inflation increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and updated as a response to the economic pressure arising from the war in Ukraine from 2022 onwards.

'War changes and destroys everything before it, particularly in the contemporary era of hostilities,' said The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson, in his capacity as Chair of CASC. 'The reality of international economics, agriculture, and distribution means that the current war hits those who are members of our own churches and communities very hard in relation to food, fuel and heating. There are many agencies in a position to help. It is in such a spirit of helpfulness that we in CASC offer these resources at this time. Please use and share them if you, your family, or members of your local community need assistance in any way.'

To find out more, visit churchofireland.org/cost-of-living

General Synod 2026: A Preview
For the first time since 2019, General Synod will return to meeting in person for three days when it convenes at the Slieve Donard Hotel in Newcastle, County Down, on Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May 2026.

The opening service of Holy Communion will be held at 12 pm on Thursday 7th. The preacher will be the Most Reverend Pat Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare. The main purpose of the General Synod is to be the church's governing body is to consider proposals for legislation (Bills) which seek to amend the Constitution.

Bills and Reports from various committees will be received and discussed by delegates, including the Standing Committee, the Representative Body, Board of Education, and the Youth Department. Results of the 2025 Church of Ireland Census will be presented in the Standing Committee report. A full report by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod may be found in the current edition of the Church of Ireland Gazette.

As General Synod approaches, more information may be found on the website at churchofireland.org/synod

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www.gazette.ireland.anglican.org or call 028 9266 7580

SNAP ANY PHOTOS ON MAY DAY?

Did you snap any photos on May Day? We'd love them for a piece in next month's magazine.

The Mothers' Union stall? The church book stall? Tours around the church? Parishioners having fun! All are welcome but please check that anyone featured is happy to appear in the magazine before sending it to us.
editor@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk



DON'T FORGET

JUST DESSERTS FOR christian aid

Christian Aid Week 2026 takes place from **10th to 16th May**.

Just Desserts is a great way to launch this fundraising effort on 10th May.

Thank you to Rosemary Maxwell and Barbara Harper who will be inviting people to provide a dessert for that day. If you can help with cheesecakes, pies etc. please let them know and adjust your breakfast/brunch routine for the day!



Ascension Day Communion

Thursday 14th May
at 10.30am
Holywood Parish Church



FUNDRAISER LUNCH
SUNDAY 19TH APRIL



This summer, a number of our young people will be going to serve in Hungary, Romania and South Africa. Four of the travellers, Ben, Daniel, Isaac and Melissa got together to provide a lunch on Sunday 19th April as part of their fundraising efforts. One of their number, Ruby, hosted a separate event.



The lunch was an amazing success, attracting over 100 people and creating a great buzz in the parish centre. Over a simple lunch of soups, breads, cheeses and desserts, the company was great.

Several local business made donations of food including Maxol Eurospar, Kinnegar and Knott's Holywood.

The team members were overwhelmed by people's generosity as they raised in excess of £2400 - a truly amazing blessing to their work this year.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in achieving this.

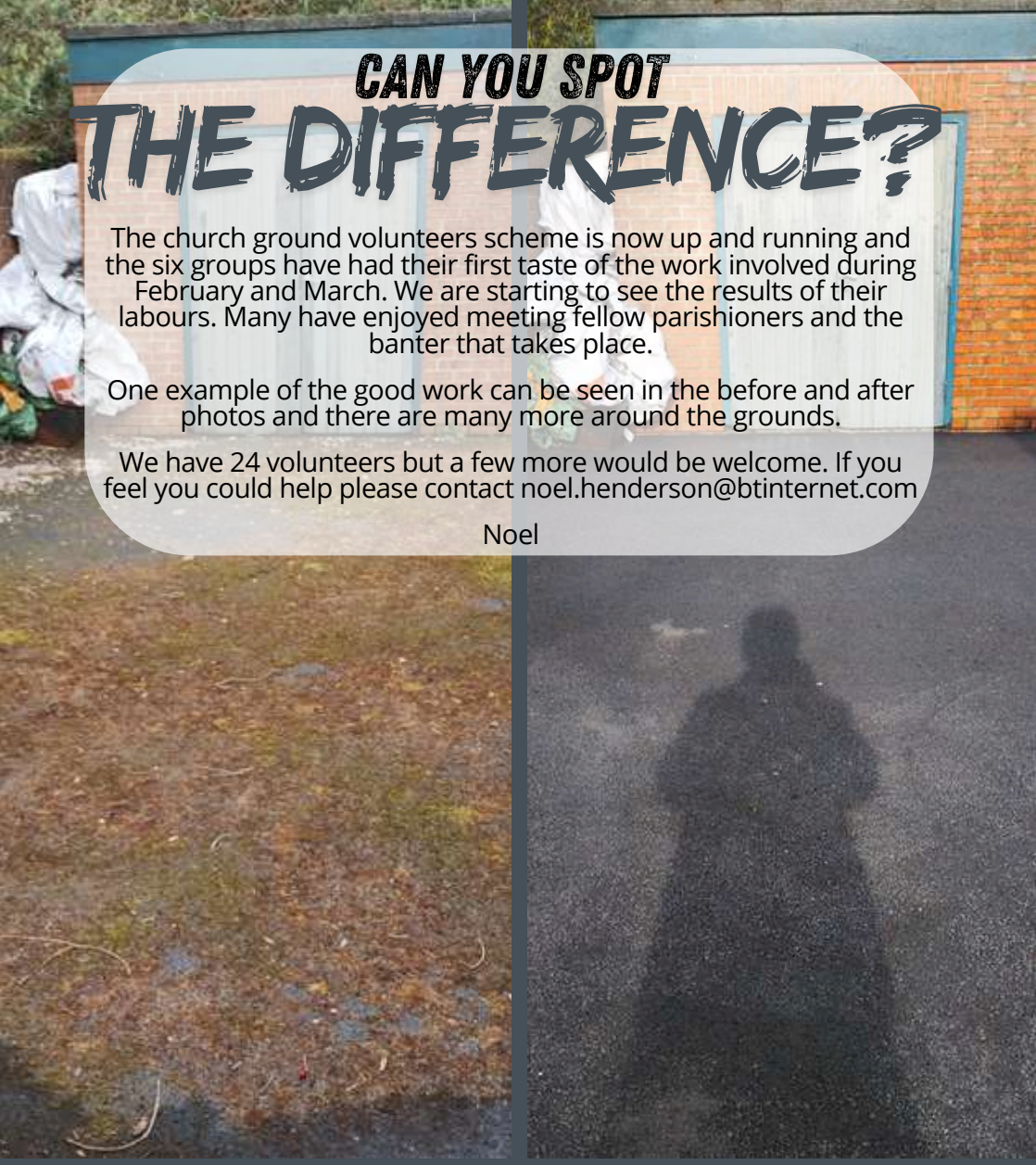




Wednesday lunches

6th and 20th May, 12:30pm
in the Parish Centre

Please contact the office to book your place



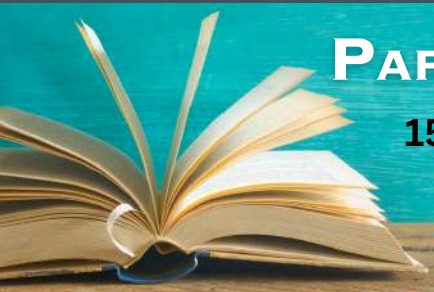
CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

The church ground volunteers scheme is now up and running and the six groups have had their first taste of the work involved during February and March. We are starting to see the results of their labours. Many have enjoyed meeting fellow parishioners and the banter that takes place.

One example of the good work can be seen in the before and after photos and there are many more around the grounds.

We have 24 volunteers but a few more would be welcome. If you feel you could help please contact noel.henderson@btinternet.com

Noel



Parish Book Club

15th May ***Gone with the Wind***
by Margaret Mitchell

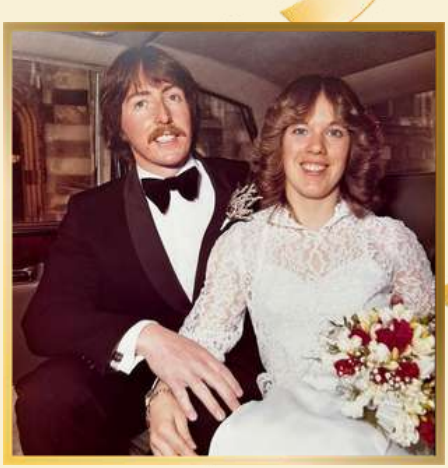
3.00pm in the Parish Centre

At the Church DOORS

...Celebrating unions through the decades

Dennis and Sheelagh Glover (née Galbraith)

Married 10th April 1980
St Mark's Parish Church, Newtownards



What are your overriding memories of the day?
It was a lovely, warm sunny Easter Thursday. Our service was at 4pm and we were supported by best man, Mike Crowe, bridesmaids Paddy and Bronach Galbraith and flower girl Joanne - Dennis' niece.

Who officiated the service?
The Right Reverend Dr St John Pike, Assistant Bishop of Guilford and a close family friend of the bride. He was assisted by Reverend Canon RJ Chisholm, Rector of Newtownards.

What music did you choose ?
I walked down the aisle to the *Londonderry Air*. During the signing of the register, a close friend, John Riddle, sang *All in the April Evening*, and *Come by the Hills*. We sang *Be Thou My Vision* during the service.





Who made your dress? And arranged the flowers?
My mum! I wore a white hooded lace coat over a very simple white silk dress. The lace coat re-emerged 36 years later as part of my daughter Tegan's wedding ensemble. My flowers were red rosebuds and white freesia.

Were there any hitches on the day?
Mild panic when Dennis and his best man (running a bit late) overtook the bridesmaids' wedding car on the way to the church! Thankfully everyone was in place on time.

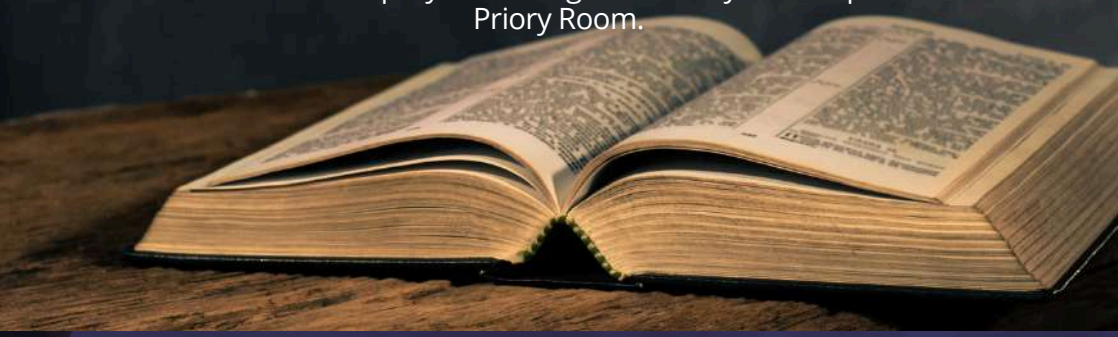
Where was your reception and honeymoon?
Our reception was in The Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club, where Dennis and I were members. From there we headed to Connemara for our honeymoon.

Parish Fellowship continues until June 2026

In his second epistle, the apostle Peter speaks of scripture and its truth in this way: "We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

One great way to pay attention to scripture is to come together to study it. Having looked at 1 Peter this time last year, we will complete the boxed set this April as we begin a short series. The short book will be cut into even more manageable sections.

We start after the prayer meeting on Mondays at 8.00pm in the Priory Room.



Introducing Jesus – Evangelism for Everyday Life

Introducing Jesus is a practical three-part series designed to help you grow in confidence and clarity as you speak about your faith.

Since the end of April, we have been exploring what evangelism really is, why it matters, and how every Christian can play a part in God's mission.

Rooted in the Bible and real life, this series will encourage you to prayerfully and confidently introduce others to Jesus - right where God has placed you.

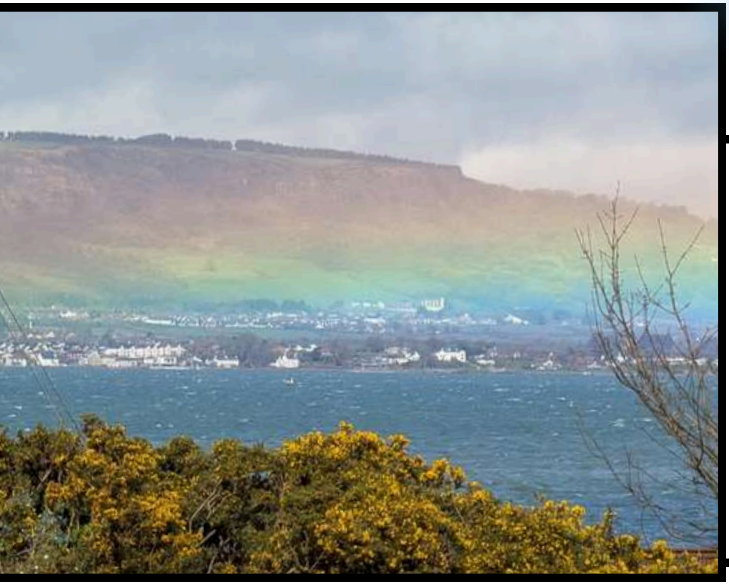
The series will run twice a week for the sake of flexibility and so we can accommodate as many people as possible:

Continuing Tuesday evenings from 28th April and Wednesday afternoons from 29th April

Space to celebrate and enjoy the creativity in our Parish network

Creative Corner

Thank you to the photographer who contributed the cover image for this month's magazine. They wish to remain anonymous but I still want to thank and acknoweldge their contribution.



"The Heavens are telling the Glory of God"

This photo was taken in Holywood at 12.46 on Good Friday. I have never seen anything like it before. The phenomenon only lasted a few minutes. I'm told it is called a Glory Rainbow.

Moyna Kilfedder



Those Corduroy Hills

So suddenly they appear in spring
Those green fields rolled in stripes
Whatever the purpose of that be
An appealing artistic sight

Like patterns laid in distinctive lines
Eye measured equal space
Undoubted traits of innate skills
Not without a degree of taste

Then one day I saw creation
Red tractor on a distant hill
Attending to a seasonal task
One more task fulfil

So could I ever envisage
The farmer's input thrills
In going about his work envelopes
Those captivating Corduroy Hills

William Donaldson MBE

Miskelly CHORALE

SPRING INTO SUMMER

THURSDAY 4TH JUNE
7.30PM





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From the registers



Baptisms

12th April 2026 Rory Gregg

Bereavements

31st March 2026 Harry Cross

18th April 2026 William Moody

[..] I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10: 10



May church flowers rota

Sunday 3rd	Wilma Beatty - *memories of Christine*
Sunday 10th	Robert and Tracey Harris Dedication
Sunday 17th	Diana Cooke
Sunday 24th	Alison Cinnamond - *happy memories of the Cinnamond and Trainor families*
Sunday 31st	*Jayne Forster - in memory of Victor and Joan Forster*

Have something you want to share in the magazine? A photo, story, report, poem or upcoming event? Send it to **editor@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk**

Are you happy to share your wedding photos for 'At the Church Doors'?



May 2026

Sunday 3rd May
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday 10th May
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday 17th May
The Seventh Sunday of Easter

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am	Morning Worship
11.30am	Morning Prayer
5.30pm	Choristers Service
7.00pm	Worship Night at Holywood Parish

Sunday 24th May
The Day of Pentecost

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

Sunday 31st May
Trinity Sunday

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

Weekday Communion service every Wednesday at 10.30am

MORE ONLINE

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