SUMMER 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
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St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

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VICAR'S GLEBEWARDEN
Colin Maxwell

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

You may be familiar with the classic image entitled 'Study of the Hands of an Apostle' by Albrecht Dürer and better known as 'Praying Hands' but I have recently been using the phrase "Praying Feet" in connection with our '72' programme.

The 72 will be spending some time praying for our community this July and August. If you would like more details of how to get involved please speak to me as soon as possible.

In the coming weeks some feet will be going out to serve Christ in new ways.

Some of our young people will be heading away with Exodus. They are travelling to Hungary, Romania and South Africa. There are five travellers from our parish but over 600 in total are leaving these shores. You can find more prayer points and more information on the Exodus Team's website.

There will also be some praying feet coming in the direction of the parish. Having said farewell to Thomas and the Murray family, our new associate minister, the Rev Ryan Scott moves to Holywood and begins his ministry with us in August. Please pray for them as they settle into life in our community and parish.

If you are travelling this summer I pray that you know God's guidance and protection. Here are a few podiatric verses on which to reflect on your journeys:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

"Give careful thought to the path for your feet and be steadfast in all of your ways…" Proverbs 4:26

"… He set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure." Psalm 40:2

We will be setting aside some time for concerted prayer for (and around) our parish on Saturday 29th August. Look out for more details in July and please aim to join us.

Yours in Christ,

Gareth



Safeguarding Update

The Church of Ireland has recently revised its Safeguarding policies with many new guidelines and procedures. This is a vitally important aspect of parish life as we seek to work effectively and accountably with children, young people and adults at risk.

There are hundreds of pages in the master documents which are all available online. The parish panel (see below), staff team, select vestry and volunteers are all required to be aware of this scheme. We are grateful to those who take on and oversee these responsibilities in parish life.

One member of the parish panel on Safeguarding has served from its inception in the 1990s. After all these years of faithful service Gavin Pantridge has decided to step down and his position on the panel has been filled by Jonny Hooper. Like Gavin, Jonny brings professional insight and experience. We offer our sincere thanks to Gavin and welcome Jonny to this role.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, young person or adult at risk, if you are concerned about the actions or behaviour of a leader or someone in parish life please contact a member of the parish panel using these details:

Gareth Harron 07711 885317
Gillian Cloke 07811 982249
Joanne Hughes 07837 952400
Jonny Hooper 07793 061456



Notes from the magazine team

Happy summer everyone,

Over the past few weeks I've noticed an air of excitement as people exchange holiday plans, asking for recommendations and getting excited for each other. Whether you're staying at home or heading further afield, I hope you manage to take a lovely break from the norm and, if you're anything like me, manage to read that book that's been sitting untouched on your nightstand for too long. If you're still looking for a summer read, Betty has included two suggestions which were reviewed in the Gazette recently. The full Autumn/Winter programme for the Parish Book Club is also available, should you want to get a head start over summer.

One theme emerging throughout the magazine this month is the impact of volunteering. This of course isn't new, but this month we have the opportunity to celebrate the difference volunteers make to our community. For anyone inspired to get involved, there are plenty of ways to do this, the most timely perhaps is for *Stellar* the summer kids club - please get in touch with Emily if you're interested. Another longer term opportunity (but arguably just as noisy as kids work!) is to join the bellringing team.

One story (and poem) of appreciation is directed at the Zarephath team, another is to Debbie who has been awarded the honorary position of Parish Artist in Residence.

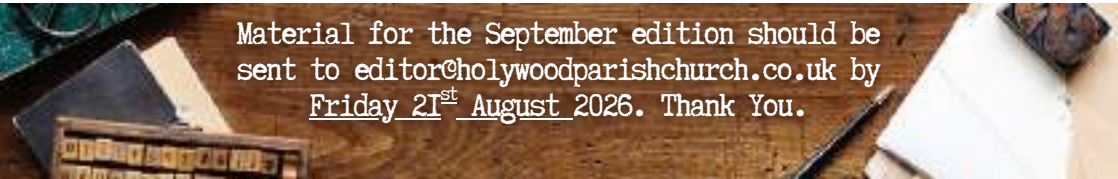
I too can testify to the impact of volunteering since, while contemplating a suitable cover photo for this issue, an email landed in my inbox with some beautiful shots highlighting Holywood at its best! Thank you to Ben Howell for his photos. His photos feature on the cover, and the July and August back pages. The three photos were taken at well-known places across Holywood and, with that, I offer you a quiz - can you identify the locations? Answers are at the bottom of the page though you might need a magnifying glass!

There are dates for your diary from both the Mothers' Union and the upcoming Bible Week (1st-4th September) and we look forward to the arrival of Rev Ryan Scott and family to the Parish in August.

Until our next issue in September, I wish you all a very lovely summer and, as always, your contributions of any photos, reflections, poems, reports and reviews are very welcome. Email them to the address below, or drop them into the parish office. Now the big question … did you identify the locations correctly??

Sally

Answers in order of appearance: Holywood Old Pier, Redburn Country Park, Glenlyon Park



Material for the September edition should be sent to editor@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk by Friday 21st August 2026. Thank You.

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Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus

THANK YOU!



A few small tokens of thanks were gifted to Thomas and his family on their final Sunday in Holywood to mark our appreciation for their time at the parish.

We wish them all the very best in Castledawson and Ballyscullion.



PrayerLine



We have a group of intercessors which faithfully prays (in confidence) for issues brought to them. If you would like them to pray for you please contact the clergy or the parish office.

Updates to prayer requests are particularly welcome too.

Have something you want to share in the magazine? Send it to **editor@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk**

Send my poem to the magazine

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Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Condolences
Mothers' Union members were deeply saddened by the death of Lorna Templeton, a faithful member of our branch, who will be greatly missed by her Mothers' Union friends and remembered by us all for her kind nature and sense of fun. We extend our sincere sympathy to her brothers Deryk and Kenneth and the wider family circle.

150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union
In this 150th anniversary year for Mothers' Union many special events have been organised. One initiative from our All-Ireland President, Mrs Kay Clarke, sees members reading and reflecting daily from the 150 psalms over 150 days from **1st May to 27th September**. This is communicated through social media each day and can be accessed via Facebook or YouTube.

Mothers' Union Facebook Page also live-streamed a special anniversary service held on 10th June in St Paul's Cathedral, London. Celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union and attended by representatives of the 4 million members across 84 countries, the service gave thanks for the vision of Mary Sumner and all who have sustained the movement over those 150 years. The sermon was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullaly, patron of Mothers' Union, who said, "I am thrilled to join members for this extraordinary milestone, celebrating the journey so far and the road that lies ahead, as women from all over the world work towards ending poverty, violence and social injustice in their communities".

Still to come is the All-Ireland Service of Thanksgiving on Mary Sumner Day, **9th August**, at 3.30pm in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. This is to be a service of Holy Communion at which the address will be given by Lady Christine Eames, a former world president of Mothers' Union.

Finally, from **30th September to 3rd October** the Worldwide Gathering will be held in Durban, South Africa, at which around 2500 members, partners and clergy from across the globe will assemble for worship, fellowship and celebration.

Barbara

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Maridi and the Quills

Social media has reported a number of celebrations in Maridi - the first may surprise readers. There are enough Arsenal Football fans in Maridi to warrant a victory parade for the beloved London team. Supporters of other teams were gently advised not to attend.

Recent weeks have also marked the 8th anniversary of the consecration of Bishop Moses Zungo as bishop of Maridi. We send our prayerful congratulations to Bishop Moses and Mama Rejoice.



Photo credit: Maridi Galaxy Media

Lastly, Bishop Moses has been sharing news of more schools' building projects. It is hard to keep up with the number of projects in progress. This is an exciting investment in the infrastructure but, primarily, in the lives of young people in South Sudan.





Photo credits: Photo Yezee International Media (above),Bishop Moses (left)

Andrew and Joanne continue at home for a few more months.

They ask us to pray for good conversations at the various Christian conferences they are attending over the summer as well as rest and refreshment and quality time with family and friends.

CMS Ireland's annual Ignite conference takes place on **Saturday 12th September** from 10.30am-5.00pm. You can book through their website.

www.cmsireland.org

For a change, I thought I might begin by highlighting titles of articles from the June edition of the Gazette. Following an Editorial was 'A review of the General Synod', 'Mothers' Union News', 'Church Growth Conference', 'The Anglican Consultative Council', 'Other News from the Church', 'World News', 'Diocesan Focus', 'Spotlight on Saint Patrick's Cathedral and Liturgy'. The latter included lectionary readings for the month alongside the saints and celebrations kept in June. There was also Literature, a crossword, ministry, opinions, archive, clerical news and letters to the editor. The 17 articles are plentiful and varied, concerning the Church both on the island of Ireland and worldwide. If anyone would like to read the articles in full, please let me know.

With the heading 'The Gift of Understanding', editor Mr Clark Brydon refers to the recent General Synod, saying, "As ever, it leaves behind a curious mixture of fatigue and unfinished conversation. There were moments of genuine disagreement, certainly, but also countless moments that rarely make reports or headlines: people praying together before debates, conversations continuing over coffee long after formal business has ended, friendships renewed in corridors and hotel foyers. For all its imperfections, Synod remains one of the few places where the breadth of the Church still becomes visible."

ACC-19: Called to One Hope

By the time the summer edition of our parish magazine is in print, the gathering of Anglicans from around the world will have met in Belfast for the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC-19). It will also be the first official Anglican Communion meeting attended by the new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Sarah Mullally DBE. Prior to the meeting, The Most Reverend John McDowell, the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland said: "The Anglican Consultative Council plays an important role in the life of the Anglican Communion, gathering representatives from our diverse Anglican family for consultation, prayer, and fellowship. The Church of Ireland looks forward to being the host Province for the meeting and we will continue to pray for all those that will take part."

The Reverend Canon Maggie Swinson, Chair of the ACC said:
"I am particularly mindful of those who will join us from areas of active conflict. Their experience and witness matter deeply to the life of the Communion. Part of our task is not simply to hear them, but to consider carefully how we stand alongside them in prayer, solidarity and practical support. Belfast offers a fitting context for this gathering - a place shaped by the realities of division, and by the patient work of reconciliation."

Fresh interest in Christian faith and stories of Hope fuel Church Growth Conferences

"People are seeking hope, guidance, and meaning through increased engagement with the Bible, and young people seeking community are attending church in growing numbers." These were amongst some of the research findings presented by the Reverend Canon Alistair Graham in his keynote address to the Church of Ireland Commission on Ministry's Growth Conference which took place in Belfast and Dublin. These conferences gathered speakers from all over Ireland to share stories of how they are building connections outside the church. A number of recent reports in Ireland and elsewhere have shown that a cohort of young adults are actively seeking a life of faith, and attending church, in the search for meaning in their lives and for membership of a community.

Charles Wood Centenary Commemorations

In a recently extended Evensong, the Choir of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, commemorated the centenary of the death of composer and musical academic Charles Wood, who died on 12th July 1926. Wood was a noted composer of Anglican church music, a renowned teacher at the Royal College of Music, and Professor of Music at the University of Cambridge.

Choristers worldwide will know Wood through his harmonisations of 'Ding Dong, Merrily On High' and 'This Joyful Eastertide', in addition to anthems such as 'Expectans Expectavi' and 'O Thou, the Central Orb'. Wood was brought up on Vicars' Hill, opposite the Cathedral, and started his musical career in the Cathedral Choir where he sang with his father and brothers before beginning his studies in London in 1883. The commemorative Evensong featured Wood's hymn tunes, canticles, and psalm chant. More of Wood's choral and organ music were included in a short recital, which was interspersed with four spoken extracts detailing: the cathedral tradition in Armagh; Charles Wood 1866-82; Charles Wood 1883-1926; and a brief survey of his choral music.

Book reviews

The following books were reviewed and may be of interest for your summer reading.

'Joyful Pilgrimage: In the Wake of St Columba' by John Barry (Vinycomb Press)

A 'Legacy of Light: Stained Glass of the National Cathedral' by Aaron Hoey & Jack Cassidy, ed. Clark Brydon. (Memory Lane Publishing)

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 or call 028 9266 7580



Bellringing at Holywood

Bellringing, campanology, full circle ringing – this is what we do in Holywood Parish Church tower every Sunday at 11am to call our people to worship.

The 8 bells have been in the tower since 1891 and each one requires an individual ringer. Our bells and those of the other 36 churches in Ireland with peals of bells in their bell towers are rung in the centuries-old British tradition of "full circle ringing". For each chime, when the clapper strikes the inside of the bell, the bell swings from its initial "upside down" position through a full circle to again being upside down.

It is a skilled activity, initially to control the bell and ring "call changes", then to advance and learn different methods of ringing, allowing the bells to be rung in a continually changing pattern of combinations.

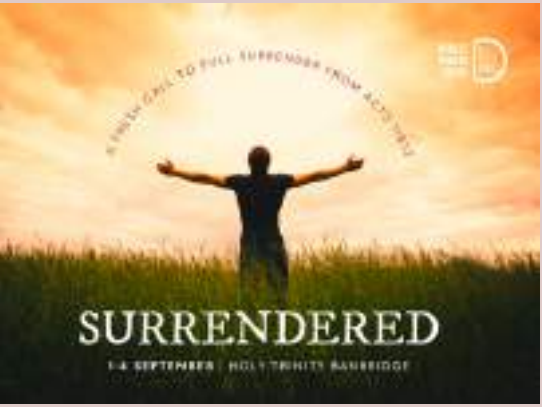
Full training is given and there is great satisfaction in achieving the skill to control a bell and ring it accurately in a team of other ringers, but there is also a beneficial social side to the activity, meeting many other people of different ages and occupations who enjoy bell ringing. It is common for some ringers to visit other towers on their practice nights and ring and become proficient on different bells, some light, some heavy.

We do need more bellringers and we would welcome those of any age, parishioners or non-parishioners, coming to join us in the ringing room at our Monday evening practice at 6.30pm. We also plan an open day on a Saturday in the Autumn for those who would like to find out more about bellringing.

For more information contact our secretary Roger Parke on 07890 438080.







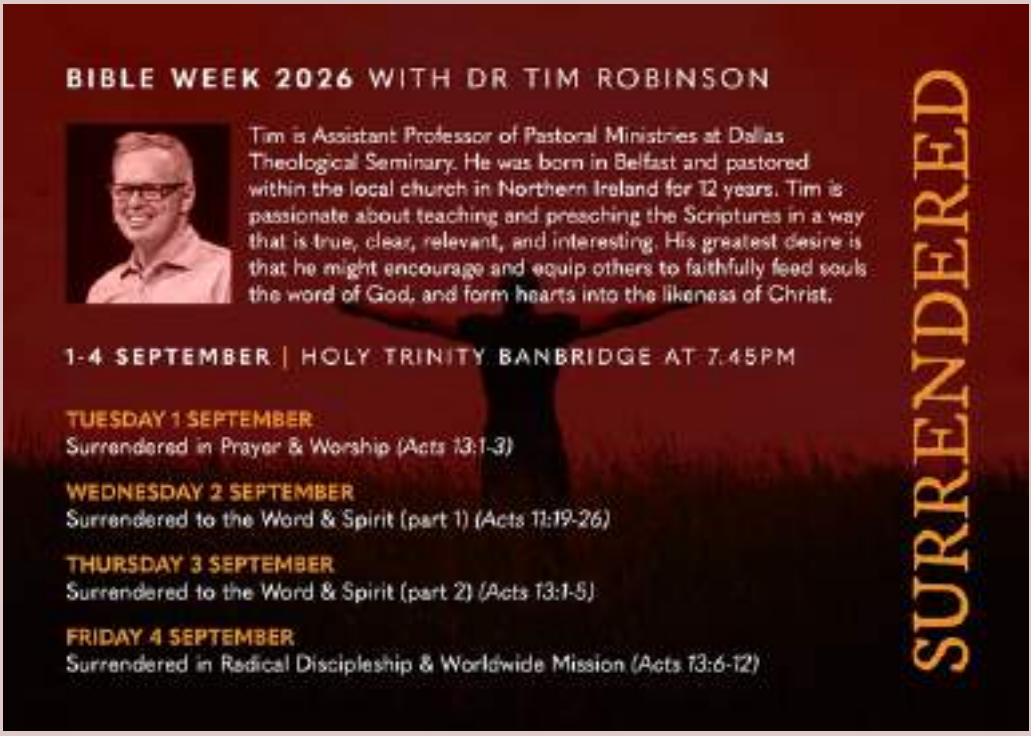
Join us for Bible Week ’26

Please plan to join us at the start of September for this year’s Diocesan Bible Week with pastor and teacher Dr Tim Robinson. Tim has entitled his teaching series ‘Surrendered - A Fresh Call to Full Surrender from Acts 11 & 13.’

We’ll be hosted by Banbridge Parish, and the Bible Week will run from **1st-4th September** beginning each evening at **7.45pm**.

As well as inspiring teaching, the Bible Week includes worship and prayer ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity for clergy, leaders, and parishioners alike to be refreshed ahead of the busy autumn term.

Come along! 1st-4th September at 7.45pm in Holy Trinity Banbridge, Church Square, Banbridge BT32 4AA.



St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

KIDS

The farm came to Pre School Praise in June!

Keep an eye out for details of more family activities happening through the summer, including Stellar Kids Club in July.





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**

Storehouse North Down

As usual, the Storehouse trolley is available at the back of church.

Please consider picking up some extra items when doing your own shopping to add to the trolly.

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



Tinned meals

- Chilli con carne
- Pies
- Baked beans
- Tinned veg
- Tinned fish
- Tinned meat
- Tinned meatballs
- Jars of curry
- Jars of sauce

STOREHOUSE

Two reasons for celebration for Debbie

Firstly, the vestry has appointed Debbie to the honorary role of Holywood Parish's artist in residence. Debbie is often to be found on her knees painting in the Lanyon room creating the boards which adorn the wall at the back of the parish centre. The vicar has been speaking to Debbie about ways of illustrating events as far ahead as the Torn Open series in Holy Week 2027 and she is part of a small group working on the Holy Wood project which hopes to place a large celtic cross in the parish grounds.

Congratulations too to Debbie and Dave who were married in the parish church on Thursday 18th June. Surrounded by their family and friends they committed their lives to each other, weaving together the hopes of faithfulness and faith.









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Summer Madness 2026

At time of writing, a Holywood Parish contingent are under canvas at Summer Madness! We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing how they go on in the next edition of the magazine. For now, here's a sneak preview, courtesy of Kirsty Pugh.

Fellowship Groups

I became a Christian in my early teens and I experienced a deep sense of joy in my new-found faith. Jesus was real to me and I knew God had brought about a significant change in my life. I had a natural desire to share my faith with others and also to meet with other Christians for fellowship.

Hazel and I have always seen the need to be involved in a fellowship group - meeting together regularly strengthened friendships and enabled me to get to know the members of the group at a deeper level. It was also a place where we knew others would pray and support us in more challenging times in our Christian lives and this commitment grew as the friendships deepened.

The phrase "one another" appears many times in the New Testament, including to "Love one another" (John 13:34), "Accept one another" (Romans 15: 7), "Serve one another humbly" (Galatians 5: 13) and "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5: 11). As we fellowship together in smaller groups, we can learn to put these phrases into practice in our everyday lives.

We have eleven fellowship groups at the moment - most are mixed groups but there is one men's, several ladies' and one focused on younger families. The latter alternates between meetings with adults only, and meetings with parents and children together - we have found that this works really well. More groups like this would be welcome.

The fellowship groups will begin to meet again in September. Please speak to Gareth or Pauline if you'd like to get involved in a Fellowship Group.

Tom Mullan







Thank You Zarephath!

There's nothing lovelier when reading the Bible, than when a verse seems to almost jump off the page and impact you on a deeply personal level. That happened to me recently when I came across a verse in the Old Testament, written thousands of years ago, but which spoke to my immediate situation.

"Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared" (Nehemiah 8 verse 10).

Having been significantly laid aside following an unfortunate fall, the preparation of any food, let alone choice food, was simply beyond me. We can forego many things in life, but food isn't one of them. Our bodies require regular sustenance otherwise they quickly fail. When Jesus raised Jairus's daughter from the dead, the first thing he did was to tell her mother to give her something to eat. Our reliance on regular food intake is significant - Jesus understood that.

Food preparation can be burdensome however, and initially after my tumble, it was something of concern to me. I needn't have worried! The very next day, a big bag of lovely food was delivered to our door on behalf of Zarephath freezer ministry, a true ministry indeed. I've occasionally helped with this in the past and never really considered that some day I might be on the receiving end. It was such a blessing to be in that position.

In those early days of recovery it made life so much simpler for us to reheat a variety of lovingly made healthy meals. Colin and I are truly grateful for the *down to earth* practical nature of this ministry. In thankfulness, I thought I'd concoct a little rhyme for the Zarephath ladies.....



Zarephath

We owe a debt of gratitude
To the Zarephath team whose food we've chewed!
We're really grateful to tell you the truth
For this team of cooks, ably led by Ruth.
The kitchen's usually my domain
But therein I could no longer reign.
A nasty fall, two breaks, no laugh,
Meant cooking delegated to my other half.
He looked befuddled, I held my breath,
"Oh no" I thought, "we'll starve to death!!!"
But in truth I didn't need to worry,
For shortly thereafter we dined on curry
And pasta bakes and shepherd's pies
Worthy of a five star cooking prize!
We loved the soup and loved the stew
And concoctions oozing cheesy goo!
Our tummy rumblings simply fled,
We dined in style, so wonderfully fed.
So, to the gals who in kitchen stood
And peeled and chopped to make our food,
A heartfelt thanks from Colin and me
For providing lunch and dinner and tea.
We both have been so very aware
Of your love in action through practical care.
Right now, I know we'll never forget
How you reached out to us and our needs were met.
So Zarephath team, both one and all,
Our gratitude, God bless you all!

Rosemary Maxwell

From the registers



Baptisms

24th May 2026 Emily Primrose Wilkinson

Weddings

18th June 2026 Deborah Adair & David Topliffe

Bereavements

25th May 2026 Maurice Johnston

9th June 2026 Lorna Templeton

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Romans 6: 22

Parish Book Club

18th September	***Ghost Wedding*** by David Park
23rd October	***The Correspondent*** by Virginia Evans
20th November	***Wuthering Heights*** by Emily Brontë
18th December	***The Things We Never Say*** by Elizabeth Strout

3.00pm in the Parish Centre

July 2026

Sunday 5th July
The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45pm	Holy Communion at Morning Worship
11.30am	Holy Communion Form 2
5.30pm	Evening Prayer - Said
7.00pm	Evening Worship

Sunday 12th July
The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 19th July
The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 26th July
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

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

Weekday Communion service every Wednesday at 10.30am

MORE ONLINE

SIGN UP FOR DIGITAL UPDATES

August 2026

Sunday 2nd August
The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45pm	Holy Communion at Morning Worship
11.30am	Holy Communion Form 2
5.30pm	Evening Prayer - Said
7.00pm	Evening Worship

Sunday 9th August
The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

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 August
The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 23rd August
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

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 30th August
The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.00am	Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am	Morning Worship
11.30am	Morning Prayer
5.30pm	Celebration of
7.00pm	Wholeness and Healing Evening Worship