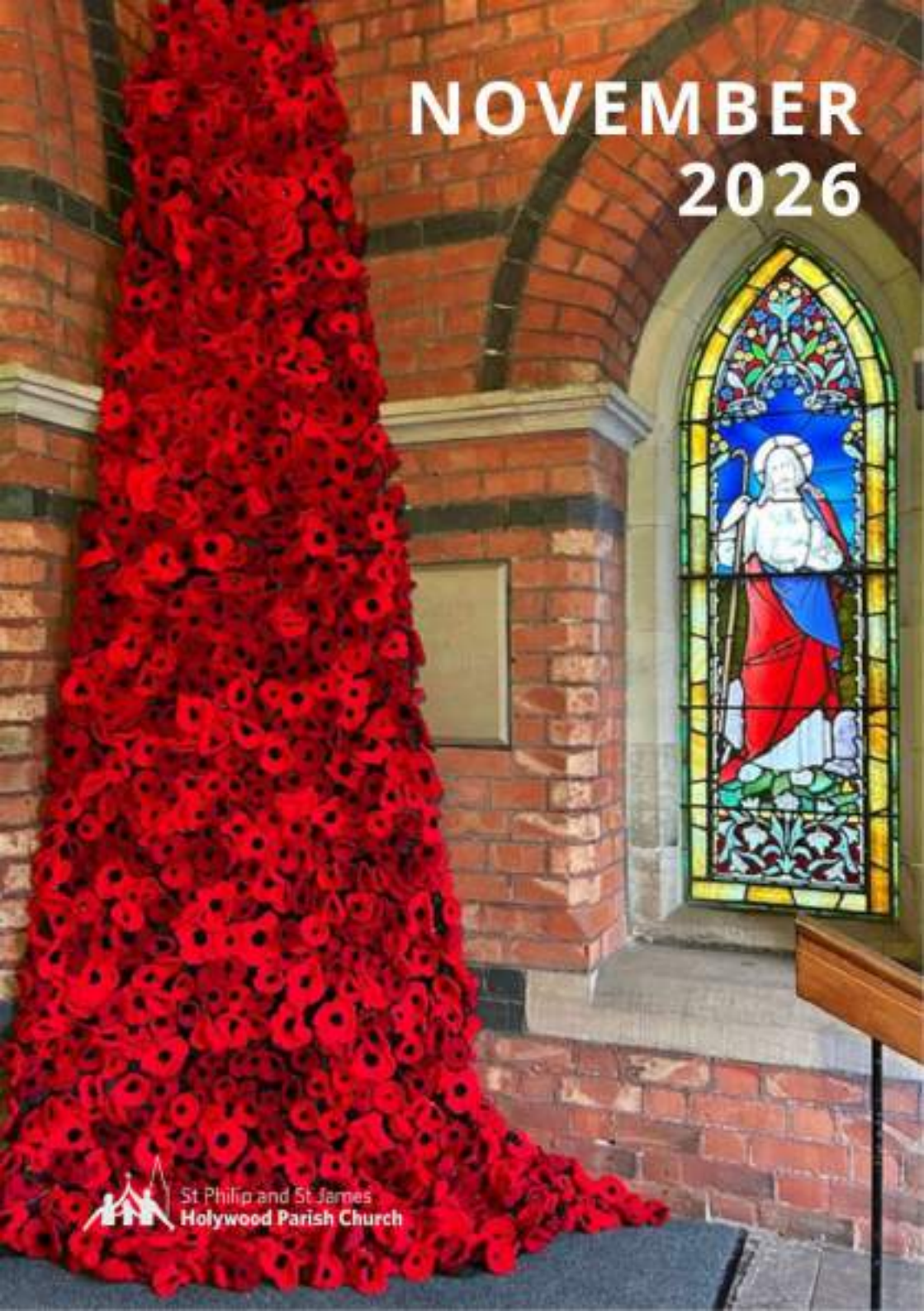


NOVEMBER 2026

St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

Parish Office
9am-1pm
Monday to Friday
71 Church Road
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
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

By the time you read this the first of our memorial services will likely be passed and we will be preparing for Remembrance Day.

Our October meeting of the men's society centred on the Belfast Blitz; thank you to Les McLean for opening up so many amazing stories.

Two things stood out for me: the incredible loss of life (Belfast sadly rivalled London in terms of fatalities and casualties), and the fact that Les learns so much from people recounting experiences from those dark days which had in turn been shared with them. There are, of course, many people in our parish family for whom those days are within living memory and I value hearing their recollections first hand.

On holiday this year I noticed when leaving Salzburg that the next bus was heading to Kjiv in Ukraine. I could only imagine the reasons why some would choose to travel into the war zone - then I realised they were probably just going home. We live in days when warfare is ever-present but mostly it seems quite far away. We feel it when paying for food or fuel but it does not affect us with the same intensity as those days of the blitz.

It is important to remember those caught up in past conflict, those enduring it today and to pray.

Psalm 34 is among the richest and most versatile psalms. We used part of it on Harvest Sunday which deals with the idea of provision. It helps us find words to call out to God in a crisis. It also helps us think about prayers for peace with this direct command:

"Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it." Psalm 34:14

That is applicable to so many aspects of life and reminds us that remembering gives us work to do.



I pray you have a blessed remembrance-tide and look forward to welcoming you to worship with us and to events this November.

Yours in Christ,

Gareth



Notes from the magazine team

Hello and welcome,

I'm going to start with something that many people may find controversial ... I think the decorations at Harvest are the best of the whole year! (Sorry Christmas) Every year I love visiting the displays around the church celebrating this special time of year. For anyone who missed it (or didn't get as long as they would have liked to appreciate them), you'll find a double-page glossy centre page spread with some of the highlights, including William Donaldson's magnificent Massey Ferguson. The beast was ably manouvered into prime position by parking maestro Leslie Allen.

From celebration to solemn remembrance. This month we mark Remembrance Sunday. Last year, Closeknit's striking display welcomed us on Remembrance Sunday. A remarkable art installation which I'm delighted to feature as this month's cover image. Within the magazine you'll find a short article about the varied work of the group. Look out for my personal favourite photo - the Harvest veg display!

A further opportunity for reflection and remembrance is on All-Saints Day when the memorial roll, displayed beside this page, will be read at the special service of Choral Evensong for All Saints-tide.

Looking forward to our next seasons of Advent and Christmas, there are a few concert dates to add to your diary - but before that, a reminder in the form of a poem by Raymond Fox not to miss the u3a Holywood shop fronts exhibition.

You will find two updates on recent fundraising efforts. The final count from Team IJM's is truly remarkable. The donation envelopes are still being emptied and counted after Asha's Festival Brass concert so we can't share a final total but there are some impressive photos from Adam and a lovely account of the evening from Rollo to tide you over until the big reveal.

The next edition of the magazine will be a bumper December and January combined edition. As usual, please send all your contributions to editor@holywoodparishchurch.co.uk before the end of month, Friday deadline.

Wishing you all a peaceful and contemplative November.
Sally



St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

Memorial Roll
2025 - 2026

Brian Leckey
Hannah Waite
Marion McCauley
Margaret Mawhinney
Denise Marshall
Mitchell Lindsay
Mattie Waugh
Ronnie Bentley
William Cleland
Deborah Stuart
Jim Quinn
Brian Markey
Audrey Majury

Craig Burrell
Harry Cross
William Moody
Billy Davidson
Marjorie McCormick
Maurice Johnston
Lorna Templeton
Beryl Miller
Juanita Trail
James Darragh
Ruby Sheehan
John Thompson

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants."
Psalm 116:15

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Mothers' UNION
150 years

October meeting
A group of women united in prayer, service and friendship who support each other and work to meet the needs of the community. Not Mothers' Union but 'Beguines', the subject of the talk given by Mr Eric Woods at our meeting on 7th October.

Beguines were unmarried or widowed religious women who lived in semi-monastic communities across western Europe, particularly in the Low Countries, Germany and Northern France. The place where they lived was known as a beguinage and in Belgium a number have been recognised by UNESCO as world heritage sites. It was a visit to one of these that sparked Eric's interest in this thirteenth-century movement.

Using photographs from his visit and subsequent research, Eric gave us a glimpse into life in a beguinage - a community of individual houses, a church and lots of green space, enclosed within walls. A discreet "city within a city", Eric described it as "a haven of tranquillity". A place where women dedicated their lives to God without retiring from the world.

The Beguines appointed one member of their community as their leader, developed their own "house rules" and supported themselves by their own labour. Up to a thousand women would live in a beguinage, peacefully and modestly, running schools and hospitals, serving food to the poor and working for the good of the community.

We can only admire their devotion to God and the community they served.

Prison Week 11-17 October
Mothers' Union is one of the sponsoring organisers of Prison Week, a faith-led event that invites Christian communities to pray for everyone affected by the criminal justice system and imprisonment. In our Diocese the particular focus was on the staff and inmates of Hydebank where we have had an outreach programme for many years and where volunteers from Mothers' Union facilitate a craft class each week.

Dates for the diary
Wednesday 4th November
Our next meeting with Rosemary Baillie speaking on "The Wonders of the Antarctic". We also bring Christmas gifts for Storehouse to this meeting.
Saturday, 21st November at 7.00pm in Glenmachan Church of God Concert celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union (Tickets cost £15.00).
Saturday, 28th November at 10.00am in St Mark's, Newtownards.
A Diocesan event, part of "16 Days of Activism", the campaign to highlight gender-based violence. Detective Superintendent Zoe McKee, Head of the Public Protection Branch of the PSNI, is the keynote speaker.

Barbara

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facebook: laurawalkerballetschool

Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus

cmsireland
equipping the church in mission

CMSI and Maridi Link

Combining a number of the organisations with which our parish has shared in partnership over the years, it was encouraging to see the news from Maridi that Fields of Life has bored a well at Haddow Secondary School to provide clean water for the community and Chaima College.

It is often said that there is little value in preaching to hungry people. The provision of safe drinking water is among one of the most basic human needs and it is great to see this project working alongside the education programmes and infrastructural improvements.





Other recent communication from Maridi and Bishop Moses' virtual visit to CMSI's online prayer room, raises the following prayer points. Please pray for:

- Bishop Moses, the leaders and people across the diocese.
- The spiritual growth and encouragement of congregations across the diocese - especially 10 new deacons at the beginning of their ministries.
- Candidates preparing for confirmation, that they may grow firmly in faith and discipleship.
- Peace, stability and reconciliation in South Sudan - especially those coming to terms with the traumatic experience of recent mass abductions.
- Tose involved in local government following elections.

You can connect with CMS Ireland and attend their online prayer gathering through the website.

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ashaactivities

The recent concert in aid of Asha was fronted by Festival Brass, along with Marion Jordan, a mezzo soprano, and Ryan Longridge on the piano.

It was an evening of great entertainment, with the band displaying a wide range of music, from marches to show tunes. The youngest member of the band is just nine years old, while the eldest were not prepared to disclose their ages!

Marion showed the amazing range of her voice, from opera to hymns as well as old standards such as "Georgia On My Mind".

As for Ryan, he was superb, playing in a wide variety of styles - the ivories certainly got a workout!

The whole evening was ably compered by Sally Gillespie, who was unrecognisable in her best frock, and Jayne Forster did a very moving sales pitch for Asha. A great night out altogether.

Rollo













Harvest 2026
















IHS


COME AND SEE



















The Church of Ireland GAZETTE

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

Archbishop praises Policing standards

The Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, The Most Rev'd John McDowell, was recently given the opportunity to praise police action in NI, and emphasised the trust and reliance people place on police offers 'in often very difficult situations.'

Archbishop McDowell and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Rev'd Eamon Martin, attended an Attestation Ceremony at Garnerville Police College. McDowell expressed his admiration of the wide-ranging and diverse efforts required of members of the PSNI in their daily workings, commending the 'range and complexity of work which the average PSNI constable has to deal with on an average day'.

He noted that the leadership of the PSNI have been making great efforts 'to ensure that the make-up of the Service reflects the make-up of society in NI', so that all citizens can see themselves reflected in those committed to enforcing the law and preventing crime. Perhaps the most frequently used word in speeches and in conversation on the day was "respect"', the Archbishop continued, noting how moving it was to see an upholding of respect for the police. 'Respect for victims, the law, for suspects and for the uniform and what it symbolises. Respect is an important civic virtue and is much stronger and more positive than tolerance.'

Saint Patrick's Cathedral:
International Cathedral for the Church of Ireland?

On any given evening at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, the congregation gathering for Evensong may represent considerably more than the city in which the Cathedral stands. Alongside regular worshippers, they may have visitors from the US, France, Italy, Germany, Canada, and even further afield. Some have planned their day around the service; others have arrived as visitors and hearing that Evensong was approaching, decided to stay. For many, it will be their first experience of worship in the Anglican tradition.

This raises an interesting question about the role of Saint Patrick's. It is, of course, the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland with a history stretching back more than 800 years.

But with hundreds of thousands of people now passing through its doors each year, might it also be considered an international cathedral for the Church of Ireland?

In 2025, Saint Patrick's welcomed approximately 660,000 tourists. The international breakdown gives a remarkable picture of just how global that audience has become. The US is the Cathedral's largest market, accounting for 52% of visitors, approximately 79,000, followed by Italy at 9%, or around 59,000. Germany and Spain each account for approximately 6%, around 40,000 visitors apiece. GB and Canada each represent around 2%. The Netherlands account for a further 1%. Those figures are not accidental. Considerable work takes place throughout the year to ensure that Saint Patrick's is visible internationally, and that those planning a visit to Ireland understand its place in the story of Dublin and of the country more broadly.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of people from around the world enter a Church of Ireland cathedral. Many will know little about the Church before they arrive. Some will leave having attended one of its services, heard its liturgy, listened to its Choir and shared in its worship. In an increasingly secular age, there is something quietly remarkable about that. And perhaps the most international work taking place at Saint Patrick's is not simply bringing the world to the Cathedral, but ensuring that, when the world arrives, it finds a place where eight centuries of faith still have a voice.
(Extracts from article by Mr Ed Coleman, the Marketing Manager at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin).

Trinity College Library renamed

The new academic year began with a plaque unveiled for the Eavan Boland Library, formerly the Berkeley Library. Renamed in October 2024, the library honours the acclaimed Irish poet, Trinity graduate, and former academic, whose work often reflected on her experiences at the university. Boland, who died in 2020, was one of Ireland's foremost poets and a prominent voice on women's experience. The building is the first on Trinity's city-centre campus to be named after a woman.

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

Share

A THANKSGIVING MEAL

A time to give thanks and celebrate together

Holywood Parish Centre
Thursday 26th November 2026
6.15pm for 6.30pm

Book Early

This is a 'bring and share' meal
Drinks, crockery, cutlery etc. will be provided by the hosts
Please sign up through the parish office or on sheets at services, notifying us of any dietary needs.

For All Ages

St Philip and St James
Holywood Parish Church

Lebanese Medical and Dental Mission Outreach with Thimar

Early on the 10th October, I headed off for a week in Lebanon as part of a team of four GPs, a paediatrician, two dentists, two nurses and an administrator. We were going to work in partnership with two local churches to provide primary medical care and dental support to local communities and displaced people groups. Due to the present conflict affecting Lebanon, around 1 million people are internally displaced. This includes Shi'a and Sunni Muslims, Druze and Alawite communities, Christians from different denominations and Syrian refugees.

The team set up a centre in the churches with five consulting spaces and a dental surgery equipped to carry out fillings and tooth extractions. The churches had advertised these well, and the day ran from 9am to around 6pm in the evening. The clinics were also used to offer clothes, assess for and supply reading glasses, and give away Bibles and other Christian literature. As well as providing medical and dental care, we had the opportunity and privilege of praying with the people treated, and this was very special. We were each given a very good translator, but eyes and smiles transcend any language barrier, and we witnessed the Holy Spirit moving mightily.

In our four full days of clinics we saw 750 people, adults and children. Follow up will be provided by a local doctor and the churches. On the first Sunday after we left, one of the churches had already seen 10 new people come to its service as a result of having been at the clinic. This was my first experience of the Middle East. I saw love, compassion, hope and care being given in a community responding to the ongoing war. In a land where some pay the ultimate price for having faith in Jesus, I saw His name exalted and hope restored.

There is no doubt that God is moving in the Middle East and His kingdom is extending. Please continue to pray for these very special brothers and sisters.

John Currie



For further information see www.thimar.org

Starlight
Sky Harp Ensemble

Saturday 19th December, 4pm
Holywood Parish Church

Sky Harp Ensemble is a Belfast-based Harp Ensemble. Join them for their Christmas Concert in Holywood Parish Church on 19th December.

Tickets £12, free for under 10s. Scan QR code or visit ruthcorryharpist.com to book tickets



Close Knit

The Closeknit Group in our parish have been *clickedy clicking* for 13 years. Over this time we have knitted tiny woollen hats for premature babies, made teddies for the Red Cross, large blankets for boarders in Kkalwe School Uganda, and large cosy baby blankets for Waakisa in Uganda. Closer to home, we have knitted woolly hats for homeless people. The recent Harvest Festival featured crocheted fruit and vegetables crafted by Ruth and Karen in our group which were very much admired.

The Poppy Cascade will be on display again for the duration of Rememberance and the Nativity scene will be in place at Christmas time.

The group meets at 7.30 on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. New members would be very welcome, as would donations of wool which may be left at the office.







Storehouse North Down

Harvest Appeal

As our church fills with displays of abundant harvests, please consider bringing a few extra items for the trolly.



A full list of items required is available at storehousenorthdown.com

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

- Jam
- Liquid soap
- Shampoo
- Tinned meals
- Tinned veg
- Tinned meat
- Cleaning supplies
- Baby food
- Tinned fish
- Soup
- Oil

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Christmas Carol Concert

Thursday 17th December| 6:30 pm

Holywood Parish Church, BT18 9BX

Join us for our annual Carol Concert for Horatio's Garden with the wonderful Ulster Consort at Holywood Parish Church followed by a glass of fizz and festive treats to round off a lovely evening.

The evening will feature music from The Ulster Consort, together with readings from David Maxwell and other special guests.

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Wednesday lunches

4th and 18th November 2026

Parish Centre
12:30pm

Please contact the office to book your place



Just

In last month's magazine I described a Holywood which, unless closely observed, looks uniformly affluent, but isn't. At the Manna Table local churches and businesses give their premises, time, and money to help those who may not meet the criteria for other support. One organisation donates dry goods, another fresh vegetables, and we supply hygiene packs.

In the spirit of the old adage, "don't ask, don't get", I'm asking you to please consider if you could give a monthly gift of the price of a hot matcha latte to Just, for those hidden in plain sight. If you can, please contact the Parish Office for details of how to donate.

Thank you.

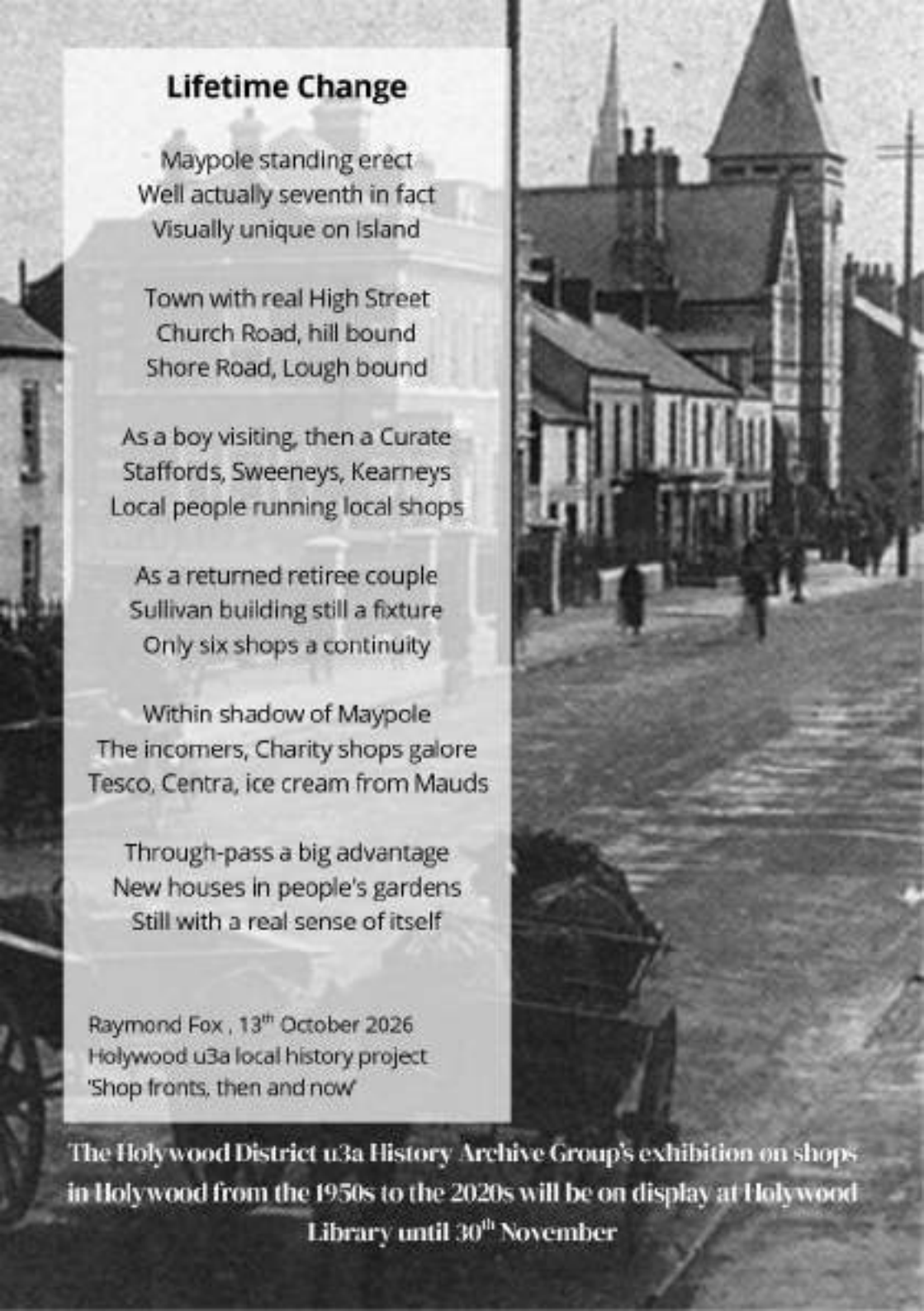
Mary Ringland

Parish Book Club

20th November ***Wuthering Heights*** by Emily Brontë

18th December ***The Things We Never Say*** by Elizabeth Strout

3.00pm in the Parish Centre



Lifetime Change

Maypole standing erect
Well actually seventh in fact
Visually unique on Island

Town with real High Street
Church Road, hill bound
Shore Road, Lough bound

As a boy visiting, then a Curate
Staffords, Sweeneys, Kearneys
Local people running local shops

As a returned retiree couple
Sullivan building still a fixture
Only six shops a continuity

Within shadow of Maypole
The incomers, Charity shops galore
Tesco, Centra, ice cream from Mauds

Through-pass a big advantage
New houses in people's gardens
Still with a real sense of itself

Raymond Fox , 13th October 2026
Holywood u3a local history project
'Shop fronts, then and now'

The Holywood District u3a History Archive Group's exhibition on shops in Holywood from the 1950s to the 2020s will be on display at Holywood Library until 30th November

From the registers



Bereavements

16th September 2026 John Thompson

Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
Psalm 33:1



Darkness to Light

The annual Darkness to Light service will be held on the evening of **Advent Sunday, 29th November, at 6.00pm**

Men's Society Update

The speaker for the meeting on 3rd November will now be Sally Gillespie (originally scheduled for February). We hope Mark Simpson will be able to join us later in the year.

International Justice Mission Fundraiser UPDATE

IJM

Final figures have now been calculated and the IJM champions who braved the 6:30am start raised £24,000!

Our Holywood Parish team raised over £7,000 of that total and we are so grateful for the amazing support from our church family. Thank you.

For further information about the work of IJM visit www.ijmuk.org
For information on our parish IJM group, contact Gail Taylor.



Parish Fellowship Groups

If you're interested in joining a group, please speak to Dave or Kirsty Pugh

November 2026

Sunday 1st November
All Saints' Day

8.00am Holy Communion Form 1
9.45pm Holy Communion
11.30am Holy Communion Form 2
5.30pm Choral Evensong for All Saints-tide
7.00pm Evening Worship

Sunday 8th November
The Third Sunday before Advent
Remembrance Sunday

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

Weekday Communion service every Wednesday at 10.30am

Sunday 15th 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 Joint Worship Night at St Brendan's, Sydenham

Sunday 22nd November
The Kingship of Christ

8.00am Holy Communion Form 1
9.45am Morning Worship
11.30am Morning Prayer
5.30pm Holy Communion in the Parish Centre before
7.00pm Confirmation Service

Sunday 29th November
The First Sunday of Advent

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

MORE ONLINE

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