

Saintfield Parish
Saints Alive Magazine
December 2026 – January 2027

Dear Friends

What a year!!!!! When we began everything in January, it seemed nearly impossible to believe that so much could take place with the variety of events, amount of organisation involved, the cost and the hope (and at times doubt) it was all doable.

But you as a Church Family made it all work. A marvellous family who together have made this year one that we will not forget. Thank you for the prayers, commitment and support. It has been so good to see so many step up to the challenge of our 250th. It is so encouraging to see a Church alive and growing.

We now have just December with our splendid Christmas Tree Festival, Carol Service with Wellington Silver Band and our Christmas Worship to finish with. I invite you one more time to be involved with these events. Let your faith serve Jesus and once again, allowing his birth to be the truth of how Jesus seeks to be born in us every day.

Every blessing this Christmas from
Chris, Wenda, Beth, Lucy and Harry.

Saintfield Parish
warmly welcomes you to our
Christmas Worship

Sunday December 13
10.00am – A Pop Up Nativity
for all the family together in Church
4.00pm – Blue Christmas
A service for those who grieve and know loss

Sunday December 20
7.00pm – Candlelit Carol Service
with Wellington Silver

Christmas Eve
11.00pm – Candlelit Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
8.30am – Holy Communion
10.00am – All Age Christmas Worship

Sunday December 27
10.00am – Holy Communion *said service*







HI all: Please note the Service Times

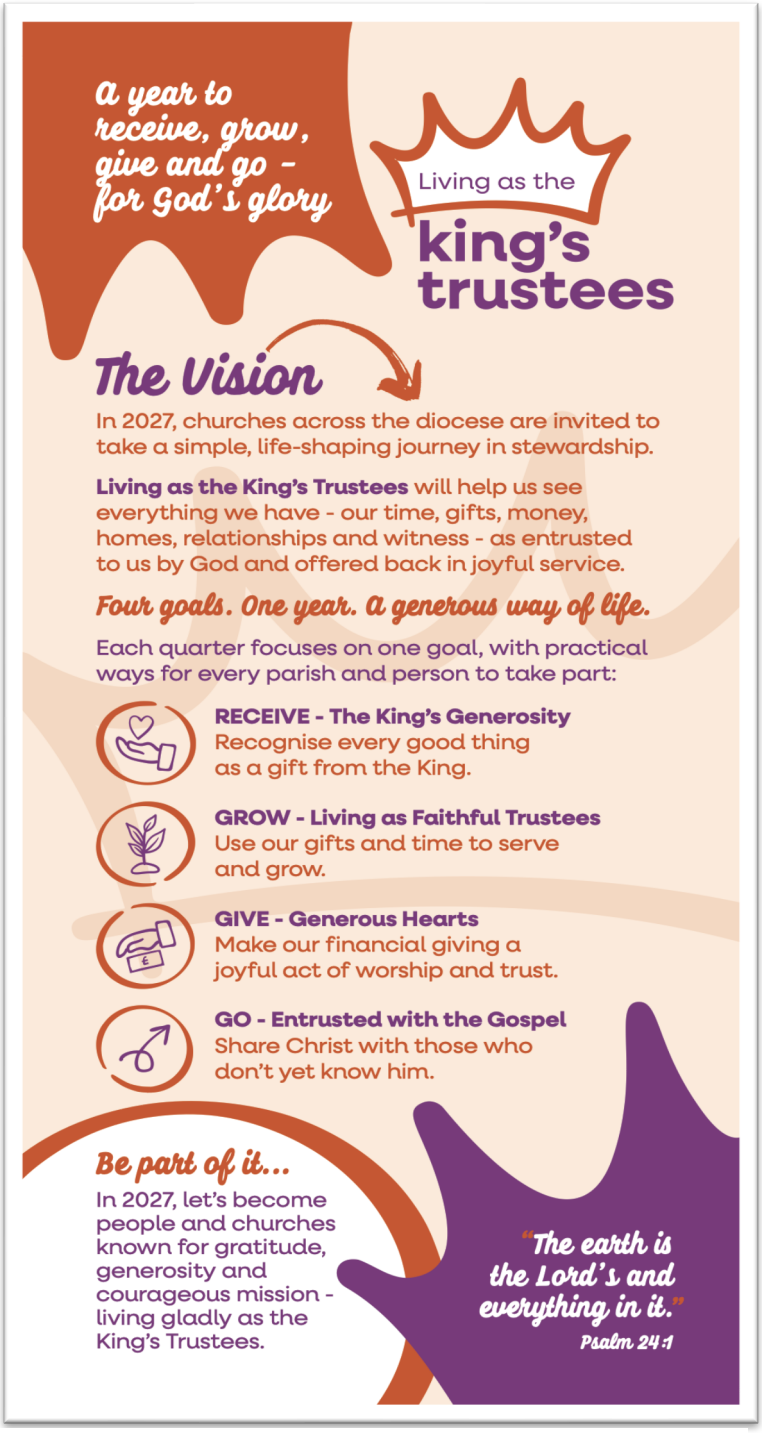
8.30am Holy Communion is available every December Sunday **except 27 December when it will be at 10.00am.**

On December 20, there is no 10.00am Morning Worship as there is the Carol Service at 7.00pm

December 6 @10.00am will be Morning Worship
and not Family Communion as there are many Trees in place



Sunday	**3**	**Christmas 2**
8.30am		Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am		Family Communion
Sunday	**10**	**Epiphany Sunday**
8.30am		Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am		Morning Worship (MP 2)
11.00am		REFRESH
Sunday	**17**	**Epiphany 2**
8.30am		Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am		S.P.A.C.E. (Parish Hall)
Sunday	**24**	**Epiphany 3**
8.30am		Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am		Morning Worship (MP2)
11.00am		REFRESH
Sunday	**31**	**Epiphany 4**
8.30am		Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am		Morning Worship (1)
11.00am		REFRESH



Stewardship - Living as the King's Trustees 2027

The Vision

Living as the King's Trustees is a diocesan invitation for 2027 to rediscover stewardship as whole-life discipleship. Scripture teaches that the earth is the Lord's, that every good gift comes from Him, and that all we are and all we have are entrusted to us for His purposes. We seek to help parishes receive that truth with gratitude, embody it in faithful service, express it through joyful generosity, and carry it into the mission of Christ.

This is not primarily a fundraising programme. It is an invitation to formation: to become disciples and congregations who know that we belong to Christ, that our lives are gifts of grace, and that our time, abilities, relationships, homes, words, finances, and witness can all be offered for the glory of God.

To live as the King's Trustees is to recognise that our lives, gifts, resources, and opportunities belong to Christ and have been entrusted to us for His Kingdom. As congregations grow in this identity, they become more prayerful, hospitable, willing to serve, confident in witness and generous in supporting God's mission

The Journey Through 2027

The year will follow a simple and memorable discipleship rhythm: **Receive, Grow, Give, Go.** Each quarter will explore one aspect of whole-life stewardship, supported by diocesan resources, parish invitations, and shared stories from across the diocese.

This year provides all our parishes with a special opportunity to know God's grace and His goodness, His provision, and His generosity afresh in our lives and in the life and ministry of our parishes.

Bishop David

The Tower Repairs













On Thursday 19 November, we were very pleased to host a visit from the National Churches Trust (Kerry Rooney & Lydia McCutcheon) to look at the completed repairs of our tower. NCT provided £5k towards the project and we have come in just under budget at £55k

The pinnacles and 4 turrets have been repaired using the same materials. The steel inside has been replaced making them more secure. The lead has been re-laid around the edge of the tower, and the asphalt membrane is now in place.

All the places that had small gaps and cracks have been addressed and so the tower is properly protected for at least, the next 50 years.

We want to thank Chris McCollum (our surveyor) who with his extensive knowledge of historic buildings, excellent planning and collaboration with the Church, led this project along with Mr John McGowan. We are indebted to John's commitment to this work, representing the Parish and vestry.

ME Crowe are to be thanked along with the subcontractors for their first-class work. Chris

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: PARISH HALL / UPPER AREA



Please check when your group is closed for Xmas.

Monday

9.30am Pitter Patter (Main Hall) Mums & Tots

10.30am Craft & Chatter (Upper Area)

6.30pm Rainbows

6.30pm Brownies (Main Halll)

Tuesday

6.45pm Pause & Restore (Upper Area)

7.30pm Bowls (Main Hall)

Wednesday

8.00am - 8.30am Slimming World Weigh In
9.00am Class (Woodrow Room)

1.30pm – 4.30pm Patricia's Sewing Class (Upper Area)

6.00pm & 7.00pm Broadway Boogie Fitness (Main Hall)

8.00pm Badminton (Main Hall)

7.30pm Lorna Hamilton Art for Adults (Upper Area)

Thursday

9.45 Happy Hatchlings. (Woodrow Room)

10.00am - 12.45pm Patricia's Sewing Class (Upper Area) Every Week

2.00pm - 4.00pm Ladies Hen Shed (Upper Area)

6.45pm Beaver, Cubs 8.00pm Scouts

Friday

10.00am – 1.00pm Patricia's Sewing class. (Upper Area)

Holy Communion in Church
Wednesdays @10.00am
December 2nd / 9th / 16th

Women's Institute Monthly
2nd Wednesday @7.**45pm**
December night out & 13th January 2027

Mothers' Union (Monthly)
Tuesday 7.30pm
8th December Christmas Party

Select Vestry Meeting
2nd Monday @7.45pm (not December)
Monday 11th January 2027

Please note the Register of Vestry will be opened on February 7 / 14 / 21 / 28 2027



Harry & Julie Ritchie and family on the loss of Harry's Dad Harold.

Lucy and James on the loss of Lucy's Granddad Melvyn

The Pyper family on the loss of Herbie



Over the last few months, the Men Alive group have gone to the Ulster/Scots and Northern Ireland War Memorial museums followed by Brunch @ the Morning Star Café. On **International Men's Day** we headed to Down County Museum followed by lunch at the Barn Restaurant in Saul.

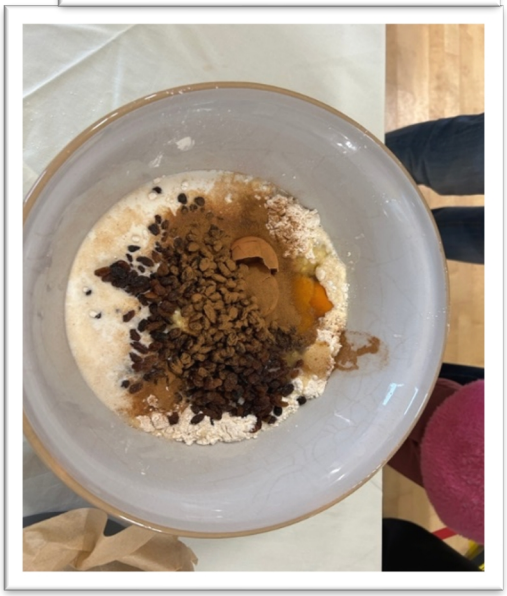
Both events turned out to be a great day out.

Next outing, in January, is to the Odeon Cinema in Belfast. If anyone else would like to come along, you are more than welcome, please contact Leonard – 07788565137.









Stir up Sunday

Stir up Sunday is the last Sunday before Advent. Traditionally, families gathered in their kitchens to mix and steam the Christmas pudding.

Everyone takes a turn to mix the pudding and make a special wish for the year ahead. The mixture is stirred from East to West in honour of the three wise men who visited Jesus.







Prepare your heart!



Getting ready for Christmas can be a very busy time of year for everyone! There are decorations to arrange, a tree to put up, food to buy and prepare and of course presents to buy.

You might be preparing for a nativity play or school concert and it is easy to get caught up in all the holiday hype and forget the important message of this adevnt season.



During this special season when we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus we must also prepare our hearts

What does it mean to prepare our hearts?

It means looking at our thoughts, feelings and choices. It means sometimes our hearts can get a bit messy with feelings of anger, selfishness, or not listening and these things can crowd out the good things in our heart.

Can you think of a time when you were mean or said unkind words to someone?

Did you do something that you knew would upset a friend or your parents?

Getting our hearts ready helps us to love Jesus, listen to him and share his kindness with others.

Steps to prepare you heart for Jesus.

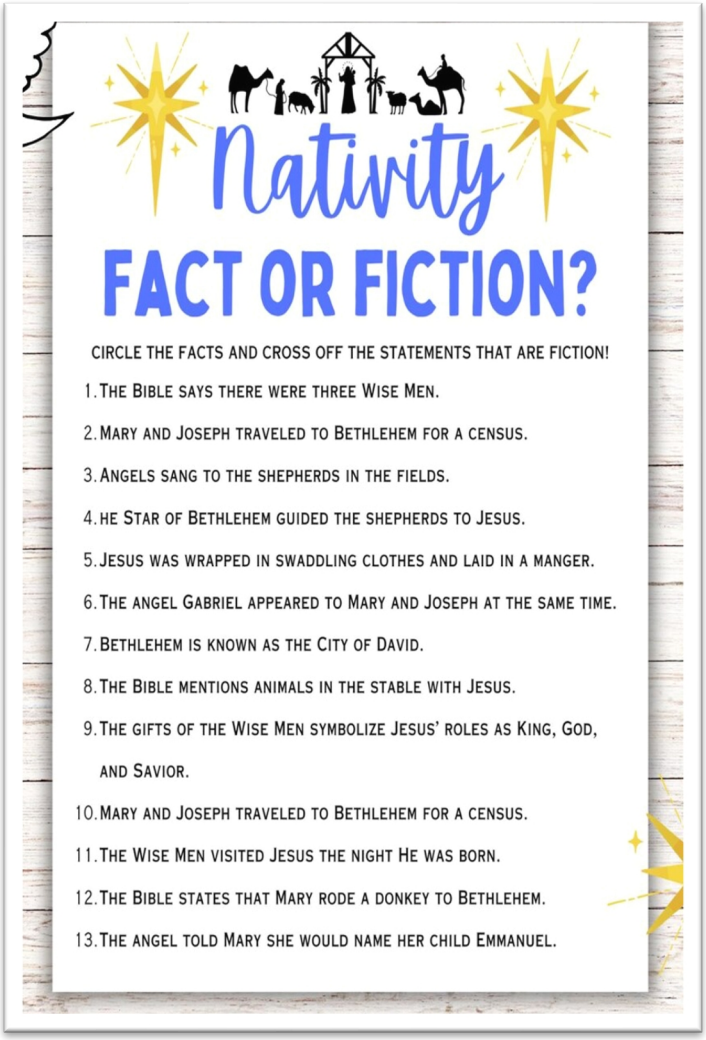
1. Pray to Jesus and read the bible
2. Say sorry and ask for forgiveness.
3. Choose good words and kind actions.
4. Come to church and talk to people about Jesus.

We all make mistakes every day and can get angry and do things we shouldn't. We need to ask God to forgive us and make our hearts clean.

Prayer

Jesus thank you for loving me. Please help clean out any unkind feelings in my heart today. Help me to listen to You and show Your love to people around me.

Use your Bible to answer these questions.



CONTACTS LIST



Vicar

Rev Chris Pollock
07519668747
vicar@saintfieldparish.org



Parish Church Office
Office Administrator:

Sally Milligan
02897 519653
office@saintfieldparish.org

The Office will
be open to the public.
Tues – Thursday
10.00am – 2.00pm
Friday to 12.30pm



Address
Church House,
45 Main Street,
Saintfield,
BT24 7AB.



Church Sexton (ON LEFT)
Ian Gordon 02897 511522
sexton@saintfieldparish.org

Graveyard Convenor
(ON RIGHT)
William Drury 07720883993

Vestry
Hon Sec Vestry: Stephen Erskine
secretary@saintfieldparish.org

Hon Treasurer: Caroline Kearney
treasurer@saintfieldparish.org

Magazine Editor: Leonard Hill
magazine@saintfieldparish.org

Material for February to be with Leonard by
17 January 2027. ☺

Safeguarding
Kate Beattie 02897 511671
safeguarding@saintfieldparish.org

Or Chris Pollock (Vicar)

NIC 101048

Ballynahinch Food Bank

Please Help this Christmas

Christmas Foodbank Donation.
Week up to Sunday 13 December

Chris, Thank you so much for the exceptional harvest donation to the Foodbank. Blessings
Rosemary Logan, Co-ordinator
Ballynahinch Foodbank

Tins of Ham, Tinned Vegetables, Cranberry Sauce Gravy Granules, Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mustard Stock Cubes, Cooking Oil, Christmas Puddings, Mince Pies Tinned Custard, Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Jelly. Soft Drinks, e.g. Shloer, Coca Cola, 7Up etc, Dilutable Juice

Shortbread, Tins of biscuits, Sugar, UHT Milk, Boxes of Chocolates, Crisps, Nuts, Kitchen Rolls

Advent 1955. (John Betjamin)

The Advent wind begins to stir
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir,
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
And in between we only see
Clouds hurrying across the sky
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry
And branches bending to the gale
Against great skies all silver pale

The world seems travelling into space,
And travelling at a faster pace
Than in the leisured summer weather
When we and it sit out together,
For now we feel the world spin round
On some momentous journey bound -
Journey to what? to whom? to where?
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,
Your world is journeying to the birth
Of God made Man
for us on earth.'