

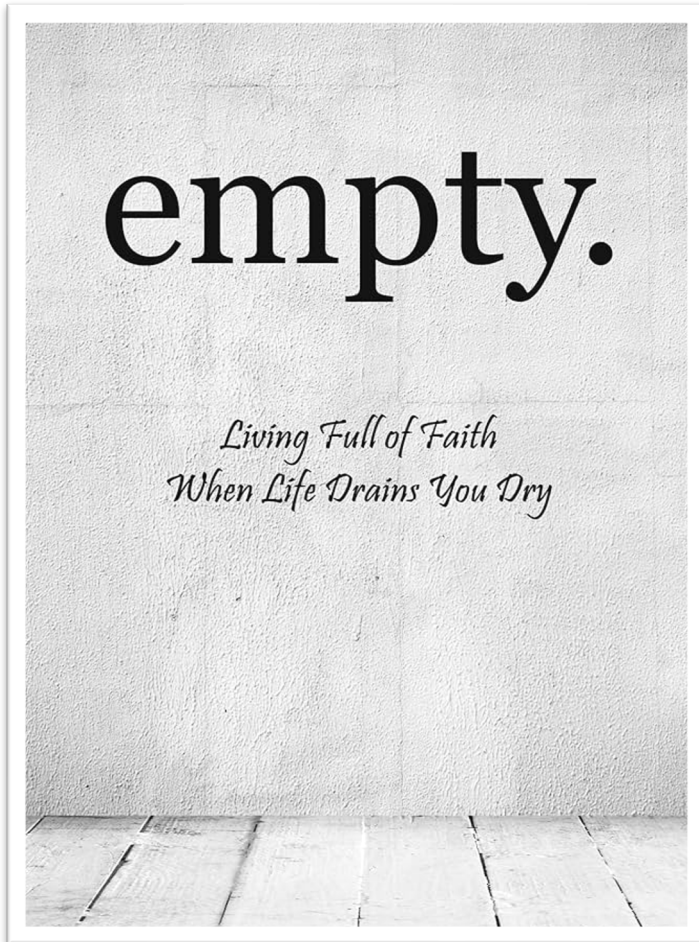
Saintfield Parish
Saints Alive Magazine
November 2025



Remembrance

Dear Friends

**Breathing God into Our Daily Lives“
Always pray and never give up.” – Luke 18:1**



I must confess that in this year, I've found it hard to restart my daily prayer life. Life has been draining in so many difficult ways. Coming back into the Parish life in September has been busy, distractions pile up, and sometimes I feel as though my stumbling prayers barely reach the ceiling before they are swallowed up in the noise of the day and the week ahead.

Reflecting on Luke 18:1–8, the story of the persistent widow, has reminded me that God honours those who begin from scratch and recognise persistence. It has been a call from Jesus that my 2025 emptiness has a solution in Him, so that my hope in God is alive.

And that is what is core to the widow's relentless knocking at one door. It was about wearing down the judge; it was about keeping her hope alive. Persistence in prayer shows God that our faith yearns to be alive, even when it feels dry and uncertain so that our hope is kept alive.

God however isn't just in the business of helping prayer begin in Chris Pollock. Through my emptiness, I have sensed a growing conviction that God is calling Saintfield Parish to a more faithful persistence in prayer.

God needs us to cry out together — day and night — trusting in his aliveness, and needing to hear our prayers, not just in church worship, but in all our small moments:

- Quiet prayers over breakfast
- Prayers whispered at bedtime
- Prayers shared in our parish gatherings

Imagine if every member of our church— from the youngest child to the oldest member — committed to such persistent daily prayer. Our prayers would become the heartbeat of Saintfield, the rhythm of our shared life in Christ. It would be a blessing. It would be a joy. It would help us breathe God in a power filled way.

For prayer is not just an activity that we do in Church; it is daily breathing God into our hearts. The more we practice it, the more natural it becomes — like oxygen for the soul.

So Saintfield Parish, let us truly breathe God and embrace the challenge of persistent, faithful prayer. Let us like the widow: be bold, unrelenting, and full of hope. Let us through a new persistence, ask that God's kingdom will grow in our hearts, in our homes, and across our parish community.

And if you unsure how to start prayer again? Here are 5 Simple Steps to Restart Your Prayer Life in the way I am now restarting my own.

1. **Start Small – Begin with just 5 minutes a day.** Use a verse, a short “Lord, have mercy,” or a Psalm. See the Magazine.
2. **Tie Prayer to Daily Routines – Morning coffee, walking to work, or bedtime. Make prayer natural.**
3. **Write It Down – Keep a notebook of requests and praises to see God's faithfulness.**
4. **Pray Together – Join a parish prayer group, small group, or pray with a friend. I want to begin a simple prayer time in the new year, probably on a Wednesday Lunch time.**
5. **Breathe God ever day – Imagine each breath as a prayer: inhale His presence, exhale trust and surrender to him**

Let us all restart prayer and breathe in God.

What a blessing, what a joy, what a hope that we never will give up on, for Jesus has and never will give up on us. Blessings : Chris

COME & WORSHIP

Sunday 2 November 4th before Advent
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am Family Communion
 Come & See Jesus : Curiosity that asks
 'What's next??'

Sunday 9 November Remembrance Sunday
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am Remembrance Sunday
 (Plate Collection British Legion &
 R.U.C. Benevolent Funs
 A moment to give thanks for all who
 served our country in all conflict and
 during The Northern Ireland Troubles.
 11.00am. REFRESH:

Sunday 16th November 2nd before Advent
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am SPACE (Parish Hall) Fry Up Breakfast
 Getting ready: Mary and Joseph

Sunday 23 November 1st before Advent
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am Morning Worship
 11.00am REFRESH :

Sunday 30th November Advent Sunday
 8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
 10.00am Morning Worship & Baptism
 11.00am REFRESH :



November Tea/Coffee Rota

2 Patricia & Denis Reade
 9 Andree & Anna
 16 SPACE (Hall)
 23 Carol & Phyllis
 30 Linda & Shiela

Flowers Rota

2 Memory of Alec McCarroll
 9 Carol Burgess
 16 SPACE (Hall)
 23 Deirdre Robinson
 30

Church.

You can come curious.
 You can come skeptical.
 You can come sad, messy, or late.
 You can come broken, weary, or searching.
 You can come with questions or even with doubt.
 Because here, you don't have to be perfect—
 you just have to be willing.

This is where grace meets you.
 This is where love welcomes you.
 This is where Jesus is waiting with open arms.

This is your invitation.
 Won't you come?

@saltandlightwords

Men Alive Fundraiser

THE SUITCASE PROJECT

after the SPACE Service

Nov 16th 11.00am





Our bishop has set out a vision for prayer asking for Revival to break out across the Diocese. Each Area Deanery has been asked to arrange a night of prayer. Please support and let's pray!!

PRAYER WORKS



Come along and let's all pray

Ballylesson Church:
 Wednesday 19th 7.00pm

A November Prayer Diary with verses from the Psalms and some World International Days.

Sat, Nov 1 – All Saints' Day / World Vegan Day

Psalm 1:2–3 – “His delight is in the law of the Lord...”

(Read: Psalm 1)

Prayer: Lord, may we be rooted in your Word and follow the example of the saints in faith and compassion.

Sun, Nov 2

Psalm 5:3 – “In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice.”

(Read: Psalm 5)

Prayer: Gracious God, help us to begin each day listening for your voice and trusting your care.

Mon, Nov 3

Psalm 8:3–4 – “What is mankind that you are mindful of them?” (Read: Psalm 8)

(Read: Psalm 8)

Prayer: Creator, open our eyes to the wonder of your creation and the dignity you give to all people.

Tue, Nov 4 – World Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Psalm 13:5–6 – “I trust in your unfailing love...”

(Read: Psalm 13)

Prayer: Lord, strengthen those who suffer for your name, and help us to stand with them in faith.

Wed, Nov 5 – Our Select Vestry and its duties.

Psalm 18:2 – “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer.” (Read: Psalm 18:1–30)

(Read: Psalm 18:1–30)

Prayer: Mighty God, be our refuge and strength in every challenge we face.

Thu, Nov 6

Psalm 19:1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God.”

(Read: Psalm 19)

Prayer: God of creation may your glory be seen in the skies above and in our lives below.

Fri, Nov 7 – Our 250th Anniversary Plans.

Psalm 23:1 – “The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing.”

(Read: Psalm 23)

Prayer: Shepherd of our souls, lead us in peace and provide for all our needs.

Sat, Nov 8 – For those who struggle with ill health.

Psalm 31:15 – “My times are in your hands.”

(Read: Psalm 31)

Prayer: Lord, we trust our days to you—guide us with your wisdom and peace.

Sun, Nov 9 – Remembrance Sunday

Psalm 34:8 – “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

(Read: Psalm 34)

Prayer: God of mercy, we remember with gratitude those who gave their lives for peace.

Mon, Nov 10 – World Science Day for Peace and Development

Psalm 37:7 – “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.” (Read: Psalm 37:1–11)

Prayer: Creator God, bless those who seek truth through science and use it for peace and healing.

Tue, Nov 11 – Remembrance Day

Psalm 40:1–2 – “He lifted me out of the slimy pit.”

(Read: Psalm 40) *Prayer:* God of hope, bring healing to all

who bear the wounds of war and grant peace among nations.

Wed, Nov 12

Psalm 42:1–2 – “As the deer pants for streams of water...”

(Read: Psalm 42)

Prayer: Lord, renew our thirst for your presence and refresh our spirits. Help us grow together with Pastor David and congregation of Church of the Redeemer

Thu, Nov 13 – World Kindness Day

Psalm 46:10 – “Be still, and know that I am God.”

(Read: Psalm 46)

Prayer: God of love, teach us kindness that reflects your peace and compassion.

Fri, Nov 14

Psalm 51:10 – “Create in me a pure heart, O God.”

(Read: Psalm 51)

Prayer: Merciful God, cleanse our hearts and restore our joy in you.

Sat, Nov 15

Psalm 62:1–2 – “Truly my soul finds rest in God.”

(Read: Psalm 62)

Prayer: Lord, quiet our hearts and help us find our rest in you alone.

Sun, Nov 16 – International Day for Tolerance

Psalm 65:11 – “You crown the year with your bounty.”

(Read: Psalm 65)

Prayer: Generous God, teach us to be patient and gracious toward one another in love.

Mon, Nov 17 – Our work with young people and families.

Psalm 71:17–18 – “Since my youth, God, you have taught me.” (Read: Psalm 71:12–24)

(Read: Psalm 71:12–24)

Prayer: Faithful Lord, keep teaching us your ways in every season of life.

Tue, Nov 18. - For those who are bereaved.

Psalm 73:26 – “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is my strength.” (Read: Psalm 73)

(Read: Psalm 73)

Prayer: God of strength, hold us in our brokenness and always remind us of your unchanging love.

Wed, Nov 19 – Diocesan office

Psalm 77:11–12 – “I will remember the deeds of the Lord.”

(Read: Psalm 77)

Prayer: God of wisdom, help us remember your works and seek truth that honours you. We pray for Bishop David and the Diocesan Staff.

Thu, Nov 20 – World Children's Day

Psalm 84:10 – “Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere.” (Read: Psalm 84)

(Read: Psalm 84)

Prayer: Loving Father, bless the world's children with safety, joy, and hope in you. We pray for our Schools and young people in Saintfield.

Fri, Nov 21 –Presentation of Mary

Psalm 86:11 – “Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness.” (Read: Psalm 86)

(Read: Psalm 86)

Prayer: Guide of life, help us use every voice and medium to share your truth with grace.

Sat, Nov 22 – Christ the King Sunday

Psalm 91:1–2 – “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High...” (Read: Psalm 91)

(Read: Psalm 91)

Prayer: Reigning Lord, shelter us in your peace and rule our hearts in love.

Sun, Nov 23

Psalm 95:6–7 – “Come, let us bow down in worship.”
(Read: Psalm 95)

Prayer: Lord, we bow before you in gratitude for your steadfast care.

Mon, Nov 24

Psalm 100:4–5 – “Enter his gates with thanksgiving...”
(Read: Psalm 100)

Prayer: Faithful God, fill us with joy as we praise your goodness today.

Tue, Nov 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Psalm 103:2–3 – “Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” (Read: Psalm 103)

Prayer: God of justice, bring healing to the wounded and courage to those who stand for peace.

Wed, Nov 26

Psalm 107:1 – “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.”
(Read: Psalm 107:1–22)

Prayer: Lord, your love endures forever; help us live each day in gratitude.

Thu, Nov 27 – Thanksgiving Day (USA)

Psalm 65:11 – “You crown the year with your bounty.”
(Read: Psalm 65)

Prayer: Generous Lord, thank you for every blessing—teach us to share freely with others.

Fri, Nov 28

Psalm 118:24 – “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” (Read: Psalm 118)

Prayer: Joyful God, thank you for this day; help us rejoice in your presence.

Sat, Nov 29 – For all in the world who long for peace

Psalm 121:1–2 – “I lift up my eyes to the mountains...”
(Read: Psalm 121)

Prayer: Lord, keep watch over all who long for peace and justice.

Sun, Nov 30 – Advent / St. Andrew's Day

Psalm 150:6 – “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.” (Read: Psalm 150)

Prayer: God of hope, fill us with praise as we begin Advent and follow Christ with joy

A Daily Prayer

Lord Jesus,

keep my heart attentive
to Your presence today.

Help me to see Your hand in every moment,
to speak with gentleness,
and to act with patience and love.

Free me from distraction,
from pride, and from haste.

May my thoughts, words, and deeds honour
You and may I find joy in serving others in
humility. Amen



Weekly Activities: Parish Hall/Upper Area

Mondays

9.30am Pitter Patter (Main Hall) Mums & Tots

10.30am Craft & Chatter (Upper Area)

6.30pm Rainbows & Brownies
(Woodrow Room Upper Area, Main Hall)

Tuesdays

6.45pm Pause & Restore (Upper Area)



Wednesdays

8.00am - 8.30am Slimming World Weigh In

9.00am Class (Woodrow Room)

9.45 - 12.45pm Patricia's Sewing Class
November 5/19 (Upper Area)

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



Thursdays

9.30am Happy Hatchlings
(Baby Massage in Woodrow Room)

10.00am - 12.45pm Patricia's Sewing Class
November 6/13/20/27 (Upper Area)

2.00pm - 4.00pm Ladies Hen Shed

6.45 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts (Parish Hall)

Fridays

10.00am Patricia's Sewing class. (Upper Area)
November 7/14

6.00pm Inspire Dance Company (Main Hall)

Holy Communion Wednesdays

Parish Church 10.00am (not Nov 19th)

Women's Institute

Wednesday November 12th @ 7.45pm (Monthly)

Wednesday Welcome

November 10.30am (Upper Area)

Mothers' Union (Monthly)

November 4th Tuesday @ 7.30pm

Hypo Hounds: How Wendy Smith is able to live an independent life through how these specially trained dogs detect her diabetic needs.

Select Vestry

November 11th Tuesday @ 7.30pm
(Woodrow Room)

We had a super Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday October 12th. So much food for Ballynahinch which was delivered on Tuesday. Thank you everyone.

To The Congregation of Saintfield Parish Church

Ballynahinch Foodbank extends our thanks for your generous food donation following your recent Harvest Festival. Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity in our community. Your kindness and commitment to helping others truly embody the spirit of compassion and service. Many families will benefit from your generosity in these difficult times.

Again, thank you for your support which is much appreciated.

Sincerely Rosemary Logan

Co-ordinator Ballynahinch Foodbank

20 October 2025



Refresh



Pumpkins

Do you use a pumpkin to make a Jack 'o' Lantern at Halloween? It can be great fun but a rather

messy job!

First you must scoop out all the flesh and seeds from the inside and then you can carve a face on it.

Once you have your face carved you can put a candle inside to shine out for everyone to see.



When Jesus becomes our friend, he cleanses us and helps us to shine out for the entire world to see. This year at Halloween when you are out and about and see all the carved pumpkins shining out in the darkness think of Jesus and how he puts a light in our hearts to shine out for Him.

A Hallowe'en Prayer

Dear God,
We thank you for tonight
Keep us safe from harm as we go out.
Be with all the people we meet,
And may our visits be a joyful treat.
Clothe us in Your light,
And help us remember that Your love is strong. Amen

Good reasons to come to church.

1. To find out more about Jesus through listening to bible stories.
2. To sing songs and praise Jesus.
3. To make friends with people who want to be friends with Jesus too.
4. To learn how to pray to God.
5. To find out what God has in store for your life and to grow in faith.
6. To learn from others who will encourage you in your faith.
7. To serve others by using your talents and gifts to help other people in the church and community.
8. To learn how to navigate life with a good sense of right and wrong.
9. Attending church as a family shows faith is a priority and helps you feel part of a supportive community.
10. Consistent attendance can help develop good habits of faith.



PARISH NEWS

A big Thank you to William, Roy Graham, Stephen & Ian for the superb job carried out in cutting and trimming our Yew Trees.

Neat and tidy!!!! We now plan to put bark down around the trees setting the driveway off, just nice!!



WEDDINGS



Jo Perrin & Joel O'Kelly Thursday 16th October

Saintfield Parish had been asked to organise this Wedding in Port Noo in Donegal. It was a great day for all involved and a blessing to take part in everything. Chris .

BIRTHS

Congratulations to:

To Amy,
Mervyn +
Margot on
the safe
arrival of
Bertie James
Huston



To Chloe +
Daniel on the safe arrival of
Caleb James

BIG CONGRATULATIONS

to the wonderful 'Green Team' from Saintfield Community who recently won the "Large Village" award within the Ulster in Bloom 2025 competition.

A few of our parishioners are members of this fantastic group. Well done to you all.



Men Alive Donaghadee Lifeboat

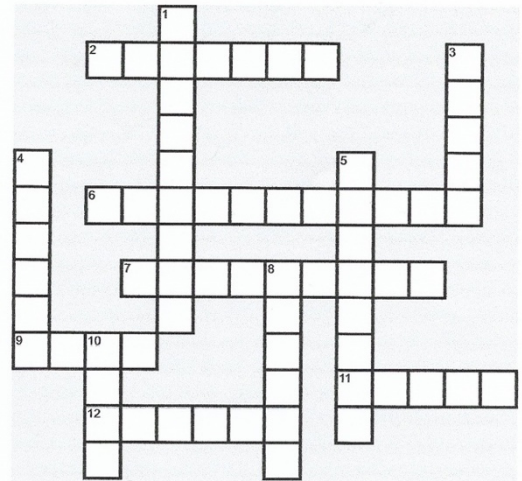


The Men Alive group recently had a wonderful day out visiting the Sir Samuel Kelly lifeboat at Donaghadee. Our wonderful guide Shirley took us through the history of the Lifeboat and afterwards we had a fantastic lunch at Pier 36. A Big thank you to Jackie Todd for organising the visit to the lifeboat.

Next Outing to Templemore Baths tour on Thursday the 20th of November @ 10am. If you'd like to come along, please contact Leonard @ 07788565137 by Thursday the 6th of November."

Leonard

Bible Trivia



Across

- 2 After the flood, what sign did God give that He would not destroy the earth with a flood again?
- 6 What river was Jesus baptized in? (HINT: Add river to the end of your answer)
- 7 What job did Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, do?
- 9 What is the name of Jesus' mother?
- 11 Who was the son of Abraham and Sarah?
- 12 How many disciples did Jesus have?

Down

- 1 What did Simon Peter do for a living?
- 3 Who denied Jesus three times?
- 4 What did King Solomon ask God to give him?
- 5 How many books are in the Bible?
- 8 How many brothers did Joseph have?
- 10 Who did Boaz marry?

WORD LIST:

CARPENTER
ELEVEN
FISHERMAN

ISAAC
JORDAN RIVER
MARY

PETER
RAINBOW
RUTH

SIXTYSIX
TWELVE
WISDOM

An All-Saints Day Prayer

*My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself, and the fact
that I think I am following your will does
not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.*

*And I hope I have that desire in all that I
am doing. I hope that I will never do
anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead
me by the right road, though I may know
nothing about it.*

*Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow
of death. I will not fear, for you are ever
with me, and you will never leave me to
face my perils alone.
Amen.*

Thomas Merton

We collected at our Harvest Service an amazing £700 for Pastor David and the congregation of Church of the Redeemer, La Paz, Bolivia.

This money will go a long way in helping them serve as Church, providing necessary resources for ministry as well as developing their footprint in the community.

We are also in contact with S.A.M.S. Ireland to explore a possible visit of Pastor David and his wife next year. This is part of our 250th Celebration and would allow us to meet David, listen to him and be very encouraged by what he will share.

So please pray that this opportunity will be possible and that we continue to grow in our connection with them and as family in Christ.



**S.A.M.S. – CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER:
LA PAZ : BOLIVIA**

"You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."— 1 Peter 2:5

In all my years of ministry in all churches, I can honestly say this is a *new* experience — to be part of a parish family celebrating 250 years of worship, witness, and service. It is a once-in-a-lifetime milestone — a moment for all to look back with deep gratitude and to look forward with renewed purpose and faith.

The verse from 1 Peter reminds us that we are not simply celebrating a building, but a *people* — "living stones," shaped by the hand of God, joined together in Christ, and built into a spiritual house that endures through the generations. Our ancestors laid the foundations of faith here through prayer, generosity, and service. Now, in our time, we are called to continue that holy work — to build not just walls or programmes, but a Jesus community, alive with worship, compassion and hope.

As we mark this 250th Anniversary, we do so with hearts full of thanksgiving — for the faithfulness of those who came before us, and for the countless lives touched by God's presence through the ministry of this parish. Yet gratitude alone is not enough.

Anniversaries are also invitations: to rediscover who we are, to renew our calling and to prepare for what God will do next.

This celebration will unfold across the coming year, with a diary of events that honour both our heritage and our future. Among the highlights will be our **History Weekend**, which will seek to re-tell with the community of 250 years and a **Christmas Tree Festival** next year — a brilliant expression of light and life in Christ as we draw the anniversary year to a close.

*These events and many others will require helping hands, creative minds, and willing hearts. So this is also a heartfelt call — for volunteers of all ages, organisers, bakers, stewards, workers, movers of tables as well as dreamers — all *living stones* ready to play their part in building something lasting and beautiful.*

Whether you have been here all your life or have only recently joined our Church, there is a place for you in this celebration. As we journey through this anniversary year, may we do so with a spirit of joy and thankfulness, but also of courage and commitment — trusting that the same God who built the foundations long ago will continue to build His Church in and through us today.

Let us be these living stones — grateful for the past, grounded in the present and growing toward God's future. May Saintfield Parish, built on Christ our cornerstone, continue to be a spiritual house — alive, prayerful, and ready for what comes next.

Blessings Chris



Brochure to follow in November

Sunday January 11th 10.00am

Opening Celebration Worship
& Rededication of our faith.

Saturday March 8th 10.30am

Talk on our Stained Glass in Church

Saturday March 22nd 10.30am

Archbishop of Armagh The most Reverend John McDowell

Holy Week Monday March 31 — Good Friday

Transformations

Saturday June 13th - Sunday 14th

History Weekend in Church

September Friday 12 - Saturday 13 - Sunday 14

Prayer 24/7

Friday October 9th

Harvest Ceilidh & Food in Hall

Sunday October 11th 10.00am

250th Harvest & Foodbank

Bishop of Down & Dromore : Rt Rev David McClay

Sunday November 8th 10.00am

Remembrance involving community poppies

Friday December 4th - 5th - 6th

Christmas Tree Festival in Church

250 Celebration : January Sunday 10th 10.00am

Thanksgiving Closing Worship

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today & forever

CONTACTS

Vicar

Rev Chris Pollock
07519668747
vicar@saintfieldparish.org



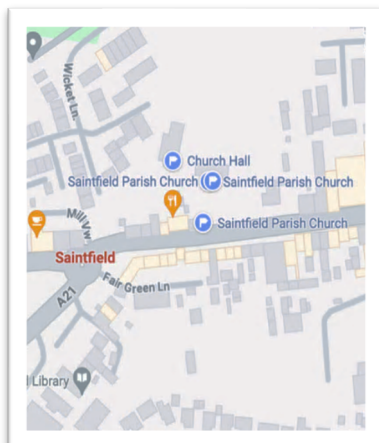
Parish Church Office
Office Administrator : Sally Milligan



02897 519653
office@saintfieldparish.org

Tuesday - Friday
9.00am - 2.00pm
(Fri @ 12.30pm)

**Church House,
45 Main Street,
Saintfield,
Co Down,
BT24 7AB**



Church Sexton (ON LEFT)

Ian Gordon
02897 511522
sexton@saintfieldparish.org

Graveyard Convenor (ON RIGHT)

William Drury 02897 561451



Hon Sec Vestry
Stephen Erskine
secretary@saintfieldparish.org

Hon Treasurer
Caroline Kearney
treasurer@saintfieldparish.org

Magazine Editor
Leonard Hill
magazine@saintfieldparish.org

**Material for December 2025 /January 2026
to be with Leonard by 20th of November 2025**



Safeguarding Contacts
Kate Beattie 02897 511671
safeguarding@saintfieldparish.org

Or Chris Pollock (Vicar)