

**Saintfield Parish
Saints Alive Magazine
May / June 2026
The Trinity**



**Picture of The Trinity
Ilfracombe Junior School**

Dear Friends

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and for eternity. Hebrews 13:8

Thank you for a marvellous occasion on Sunday 22 May 2026 as we celebrated together 250 years of our Parish Building being built. It was such a joy to be together in church, followed by the Celebration Lunch in the hall.

Archbishop John reminded us that God has a use for us in all sorts of ways to share the Gospel. Being a parish is not about the Church building, but the building is the place (as seen by many generations), where opportunities are born through prayer, new directions revealed through God's Word, Christlike acts released through the Holy Spirit and Jesus remains at the centre of all our vision, hope and service. The Celebration Worship had a great sense of thanksgiving, preparing us for what God has planned for the next 250 years.

Our Pop-Up choir led us with John Rutter's Gaelic Blessing. All Ages were involved and Pastor David from La Paz, Bolivia, brought us through a video a Scripture Reading as well as blessing us. Everyone before Sunday worked very hard in setting up the Hall & Church to make things happen. Thank you to all of you for your hard work and effort.

It was also a Gift Day for our Tower Appeal which now stands at

£25,000

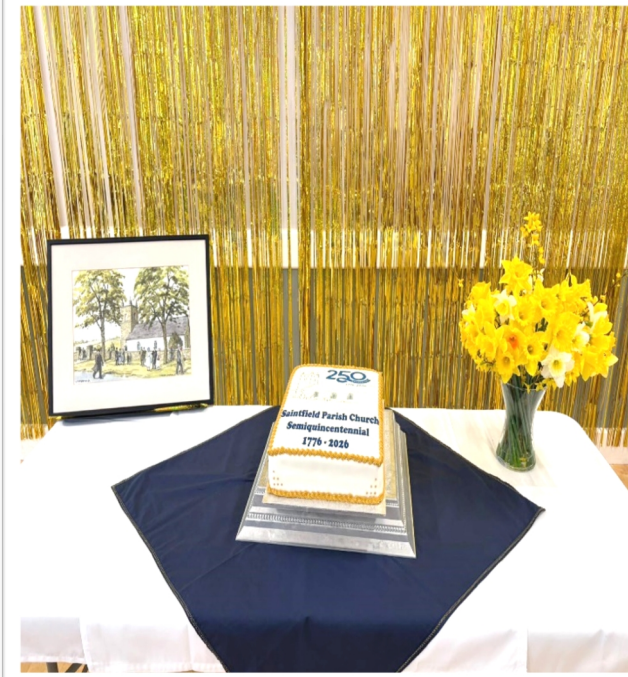
This sets us well on our way to raising the necessary £46K needed to repair the Church Tower. This will fully protect it from the weather and make the turrets on each corner stable and safe.

The lunch provided by Frenches of Clough was up to the highest standard. The cutting of the cake was carried out by both one of our latest Baptisms with one of the longest Baptised of Saintfield Parish Church. The past and the future are working together that we are always seeking to grow and bless our community.

Overall, this Sunday will be remembered for many years to come. So many people being together for whom Saintfield Parish is a significant place, reveals God's hand at work in all sorts of ways. It allows the glory of our 250th year to belong to God in whom we can always trust to provide for us.

Thank you for being there and for creating such a moment that marks our journey as a church family.
Amen. Chris







Sunday 3 Easter 5

8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Family Communion

Sunday 10 Easter 6

8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Morning Worship
(Foodbank Sunday)

11.00am REFRESH
Superheroes: Daniel

Sunday 17 Ascension

8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am **SPACE in Parish Hall** Esther

Sunday 24 Pentecost



8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Morning Worship
11.00am REFRESH
Superheroes Nehemiah

Sunday 31 Trinity



8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Morning Worship
11.00am REFRESH
Superheroes Jonah



Sunday 7 Trinity 1

8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Family Communion
Joseph: Favoured but flawed

Sunday 14 Trinity 2

8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Morning Worship
Joseph: Down and out
(Foodbank Sunday)

11.00am REFRESH FUN MORNING

Sunday 21 Fathers' Day

8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Morning Worship (no SPACE)

Sunday 28 Trinity 4

8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)
10.00am Morning Worship
Joseph: Keeping true

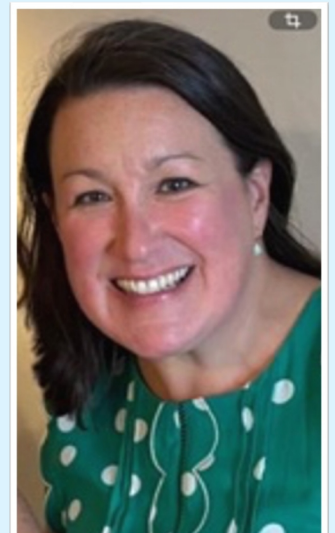
Parish Reader

It is with great joy
I can announce that

Katie Cooke

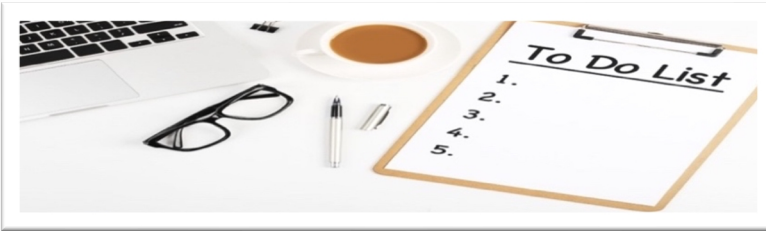
has been trained and
approved to be a Parish
Reader for our Sunday
Worship.

Katie will be (every few
weeks), leading 10.00am
Worship in its intercessions,
liturgy as well as the other
component parts. It's great
to have Katie on board.



**Well done and thank you for
stepping up.**

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: PARISH HALL / UPPER AREA



Mondays

9.30am Pitter Patter (Main Hall) Mums & Tots
Off Monday May 4th but open to end of June

10.30am Craft & Chatter (Upper Area)

6.30pm Rainbows
Off May 4th finish end of May

6.30pm Brownies
Off Monday May 4th Finish end of May
(Main Hall)

Tuesdays

6.45pm Pause & Restore (Upper Area)

Bowls 7.30pm – finished for the season.

Wednesdays

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

1.30pm – 4.30pm Patricia's Sewing Class
(Upper Area) Please Check
May 6/20 June 3/17

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

Badminton Club 8.00pm.

Thursdays

9.30 Happy Hatchlings

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

2.00pm - 4.00pm Ladies Hen Shed

Fridays

10.00am – 1.00pm Patricia's Sewing class.
(Upper Area) May 1/15 June 5/19

5.30pm Inspire Dance Company (Main Hall)
Please check

Holy Communion Wednesdays

Parish Church 10.00am

Women's Institute

Wednesday 13 May @ 7.45pm (Monthly)

Wednesday Welcome 10.30am – 12.30pm

May 13/27

Mothers' Union (Monthly) 7.30pm

Tuesday 5 May

Barn Owl presentation

Tuesday 2 June

Whodunnit – A walk around Saintfield

Select Vestry

Monday 11 May @7.30pm

Monday 8 June @7.30pm
(Upper Area)

In Sympathy to families of

Marie Spence

9 March 2026

Robert McSpadden

26 February 2026

Ken Gilliland

28th February 2026

Our sympathy to our parish families
on the loss of

Crawford Wadsworth

30 March 2026

Lynne Nesbitt (Nee Jennings) who
passed away on Sunday 26 April



PRAYERS



MAY Week 1 (World)

Fri 1 May – Lord, bless La Paz Church and guide Pastor David with wisdom, strength, and encouragement. *Reading: Matthew 5:1–12*

Sat 2 May – God of peace, bring reconciliation to nations in conflict. *Reading: Matthew 5:13–20*

Sun 3 May – Risen Lord, fill the world with hope and new life. *Reading: John 21:1–19*

Mon 4 May – Grant wisdom and integrity to world leaders. *Reading: Matthew 5:21–37*

Tue 5 May – Defend the oppressed and establish justice. *Reading: Matthew 5:38–48*

Wed 6 May – Help us care faithfully for creation. *Reading: Matthew 6:1–18*

Thu 7 May – Provide for those who lack daily bread. *Reading: Matthew 6:19–34*

Fri 8 May – Bring healing to places damaged by war. *Reading: Matthew 7:1–14*

Sat 9 May – Unite nations in peace and cooperation. *Reading: Matthew 7:15–29*

Week 2 (Community – Christian Aid Week)

Sun 10 May – Lord, open our eyes to need and lead us to love in action. We pray for our churches

Saintfield Parish Church,
First Saintfield Presbyterian Church,
Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church,
Saintfield Baptist Church,
Roman Catholic Church,
that they may be united in witness and service.
Reading: John 10:22–30

Mon 11 May – Help us stand with those facing poverty and injustice. *Reading: Acts 1:1–11*

Tue 12 May – Strengthen all who serve vulnerable communities. *Reading: Acts 1:12–26*

Wed 13 May – Provide food, water, and hope; bless Saintfield churches in service.
Reading: Acts 2:1–21

Thu 14 May – Teach us to live simply and give generously. *Reading: Acts 2:22–47*

Fri 15 May – Bless families in poverty with dignity and provision. *Reading: Acts 3:1–16*

Sat 16 May – Use our lives to bring justice and lasting change; strengthen unity in Saintfield churches. *Reading: Acts 4:1–22*

Week 3 (Church)

Sun 17 May – Teach your Church to love as Christ loves. *Reading: John 13:31–35*

Mon 18 May – Bring unity among your people. *Reading: Acts 4:23–37*

Tue 19 May – May your Word be proclaimed faithfully. *Reading: Acts 5:1–16*

Wed 20 May – Strengthen church leaders. *Reading: Acts 5:17–42*

Thu 21 May – Give us boldness in witness. *Reading: Acts 6:1–15*

Fri 22 May – Fill your Church with compassion. *Reading: Acts 7:1–16*

Sat 23 May – Help us be faithful in small things. *Reading: Acts 7:17–43*

Week 4 (Us) Sun 24 May – Pentecost Holy Spirit, fill and renew us. *Reading: John 14:8–17*

Mon 25 May – Shape our lives in holiness. *Reading: Acts 7:44–60*

Tue 26 May – Teach us to trust you. *Reading: Acts 8:1–25*

Wed 27 May – Give patience in trials. *Reading: Acts 8:26–40*

Thu 28 May – Fill us with joy. *Reading: Acts 9:1–19*

Fri 29 May – Grow our faith. *Reading: Acts 9:20–43*

Sat 30 May – Give courage to follow you. *Reading: Acts 10:1–23*

Week 5 (World) Sun 31 May – Trinity Sunday Father, Son, and Spirit, draw the world into your love. *Reading: John 16:12–15*

JUNE 2026

Week 1 (World)

Mon 1 Jun – Lord, bless La Paz Church and strengthen Pastor David in ministry.
Reading: Acts 10:24–48

Tue 2 Jun – Open doors for learning and opportunity. *Reading: Acts 11:1–18*

Wed 3 Jun – Help us care for creation.
Reading: Acts 11:19–30

Thu 4 Jun – Bring peace where there is conflict.
Reading: Acts 12:1–25

Fri 5 Jun – Teach us good stewardship of the earth. *Reading: Acts 13:1–12*

Sat 6 Jun – Provide for refugees and displaced people. *Reading: Acts 13:13–41*

Week 2 (Community)

Sun 7 Jun – Lord, help us shine your light. We pray for the churches in Saintfield—

Saintfield Parish Church,
First Saintfield Presbyterian Church,
Second Saintfield Presbyterian Church,
Saintfield Baptist Church, Roman Catholic Church

that they may be united in mission.
Reading: Luke 7:11–17

Mon 8 Jun – Teach us respect for one another.
Reading: Acts 13:42–52

Tue 9 Jun – Bless schools and learning.
Reading: Acts 14:1–20

Wed 10 Jun – Help us care for the vulnerable; use Saintfield churches as places of hope.
Reading: Acts 14:21–28

Thu 11 Jun – Strengthen relationships in community. *Reading: Acts 15:1–21*

Fri 12 Jun – Protect children from harm.
Reading: Acts 15:22–41

Sat 13 Jun – Make us generous; may Saintfield churches model service.
Reading: Acts 16:1–15

Week 3 (Church)

Sun 14 Jun – Help us trust Christ fully.
Reading: Luke 7:36–50

Mon 15 Jun – Renew our life of prayer.
Reading: Acts 16:16–40

Tue 16 Jun – Unite your Church.
Reading: Acts 17:1–15

Wed 17 Jun – Encourage those serving you.
Reading: Acts 17:16–34

Thu 18 Jun – Keep us faithful.
Reading: Acts 18:1–17

Fri 19 Jun – Give wisdom to leaders.
Reading: Acts 18:18–28

Sat 20 Jun – Stir compassion for refugees.
Reading: Acts 19:1–20

Week 4 (Us)

Sun 21 Jun – FATHERS' DAY
Help us trust you in life's storms.
Reading: Luke 8:22–25

Mon 22 Jun – Draw us deeper in prayer.
Reading: Acts 19:21–41

Tue 23 Jun – Free us from anxiety.
Reading: Acts 20:1–16

Wed 24 Jun – Teach us humility.
Reading: Acts 20:17–38

Thu 25 Jun – Grow love in us.
Reading: Romans 1:1–17

Fri 26 Jun – Bring healing and justice.
Reading: Romans 1:18–32

Sat 27 Jun – Give rest and renewal.
Reading: Romans 2:1–16

Week 5 (World →)

Sun 28 Jun – Call us to follow you fully.
Reading: Luke 9:51–62

Mon 29 Jun – Give courage for truth.
Reading: Romans 2:17–29

Tue 30 Jun – Fill us with hope.
Reading: Romans 3:1–20

THE TRINITY

Alistair McGrath

I often get asked to explain what Christians mean by the doctrine of the Trinity. When I was an atheist myself as a teenager, I saw the doctrine of the Trinity as confirming my view that religion was total nonsense. How can God be three and one? Yet many within Christianity also find it baffling. So let me explore why this doctrine makes sense, and why it's so important.



The doctrine of the Trinity sets out to tell the full truth about God, no matter how hard it is for us to take this in. It aims to tell the full story and paint the full picture. It might be easier to tell the story of God's dealings with the world and humanity by leaving out some bits. The Christian panorama is that of God creating the world, redeeming it in Christ, and being present in the world and our lives through the Holy Spirit. That's complicated, some will say. So, what happens if we try to make it a lot simpler?

For Christians, God entered into this world in Jesus of Nazareth: "the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory"

Let's pretend that God is simply someone up in heaven, who made the world. That's the way many Greek philosophers thought about God. It's not a difficult idea. So why don't Christians just adopt this simple view of God? The reason is clear.

This may be an easy idea to understand, but it is a totally inadequate view of God, from a Christian point of view. Why? Because this scaled-down God is the distant and far-removed creator of this world, who never becomes directly involved in its affairs. And Christians know that God just isn't like that. For Christians, God entered this world in Jesus of Nazareth: "the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory" (John 1:14).

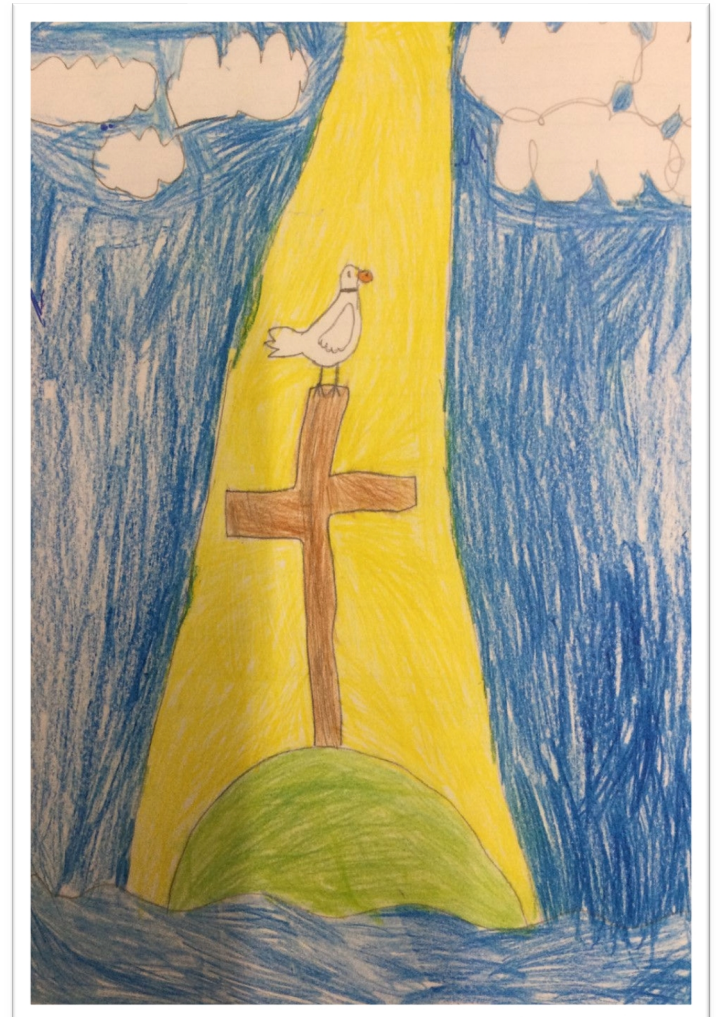
Good theology is about telling the full story and enabling us to see the full picture. And that means weeding out inadequate ideas about God. We simply cannot do justice to the Christian experience and vision of God without using the traditional biblical and theological language of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Now some will read these words and rightly wish to raise an objection. Their faith is simple. They trust in God and believe firmly that they've been redeemed

through Christ. Why do they need to believe this complicated stuff about the Trinity? Isn't their simple faith good enough? It's a fair question and needs to be answered properly.

No, you don't need to believe in the Trinity. But when you start to reflect on your faith, you will find that – maybe without knowing it – you already do believe in the Trinity! It may not be something that you explicitly affirm. But it's implicit in what you already believe. Let's tease out this important point.

If you are holding a coin in your hand, and let it drop, it will fall to earth. If you are growing apples or pears in your garden, the fruit will drop off the tree when it is ripe. Those are very simple observations. We're all familiar with them, and there's nothing difficult about them. But what do these observations imply about our world? What is the bigger picture of which they are part, and which they disclose, to some extent?



Sir Isaac Newton, one of the leading figures of the Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century, realised that these everyday observations pointed to the existence of something deeper – a force which he called "gravity". Everyone already knew that apples fell off trees. What Newton did was to make clear what that implied. He was able to show that the same general principle that governed apples falling to the ground also applied to planets orbiting the sun.

The same principle underlies the Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Christians believe that God is creator and lord. Christians pray and worship. They talk about being saved by Christ. They talk about being guided by the Holy Spirit. But what concept of God is implicit in these beliefs? The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the truth of these simple statements. But it goes further, and asks: what must be true about God if these simple statements of faith are true and reliable? What is the bigger picture of God, that holds these snapshots together?

Imagine that you come across a lake – perhaps on a country walk, or in an ornamental garden – in which water lilies are growing. Their great leaves and elegant flowers seem to float on the surface of the water, creating an impression of tranquillity and harmony. But what we see on the surface is sustained by a complex root system. The water lilies grow on stalks that are rooted in the ground at the bottom of the pond. These roots provide both physical support and biological nourishment for the leaves and flowers. They're part of a bigger picture, which is not fully seen from the perspective of the observer, who notices only the leaves and flowers floating on the pond.

The doctrine of the Trinity is like the part of the iceberg that is under the water. It's there, and it needs to be there.

A "surface faith" is about what we see and experience. That means it's about prayer and worship. It's about affirming the articles of the creeds and talking about Jesus of Nazareth as our saviour and Lord. But beneath this is a "deep faith" – a set of more profound beliefs that are implied by our "surface faith". The doctrine of the Trinity is like the part of the iceberg that is under the water. It's there, and it needs to be there.

But for everyday purposes, you don't need to worry about it. You can live out the Christian life without explicitly talking about the Trinity! But what you need to realise is that there is a deep Trinitarian logic to the language of our faith. When Christians declare that "Jesus is Lord!", they imply that God is Trinity.

C. S. Lewis offers us a mental experiment that many people find helpful. Lewis asks us to imagine someone who is praying, and think through what this implies:

"An ordinary simple Christian kneels down to say his prayers. He is trying to get into touch with God. But if he is a Christian, he knows that what is prompting him to pray is also God: God, so to speak, inside him."

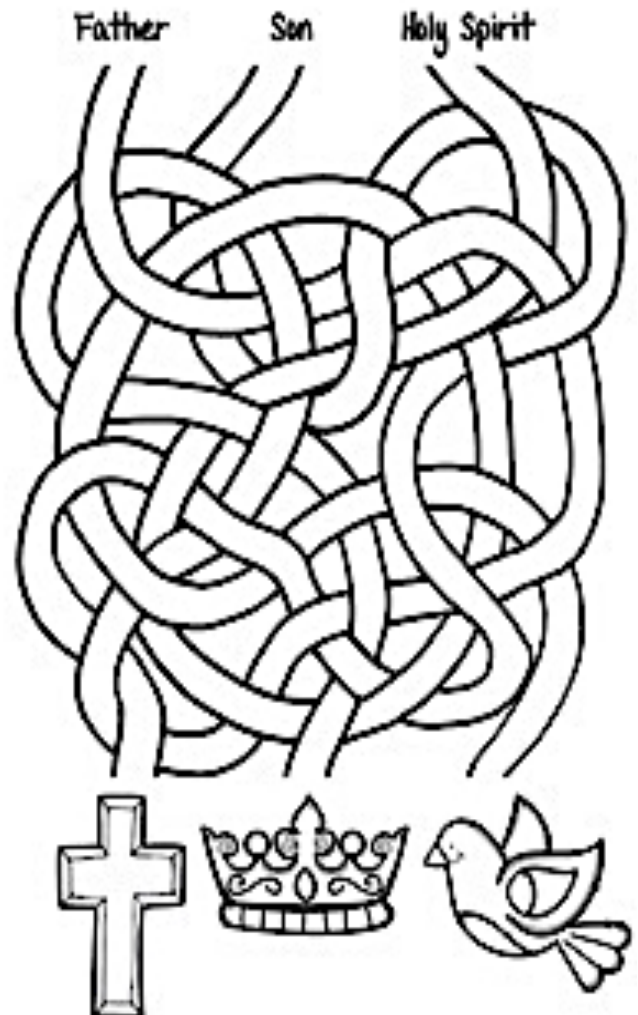
But he also knows that all his real knowledge of God comes through Christ, the Man who was God – that Christ is standing beside him, helping him to pray, praying for him. You see what is happening. God is the thing to which he is praying the goal he is trying to reach. God is also the thing inside him which is pushing him on – the motive power.

God is also the road or bridge along which he is being pushed to that goal. So that the whole threefold life of the three-personal Being is actually going on in that ordinary little bedroom where an ordinary man is saying his prayers."

In the end, the Trinity is not really something that we can hope to understand. It's an attempt to do justice to God – not a distant, absent God, but a God whose love and presence we can know here and now, in our ordinary lives.

Alister McGrath recently retired as Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion at the University of Oxford.

His latest book is 'What's the Point of Theology? Wisdom, Wellbeing and Wonder'



REFRESH / SPACE



We enjoyed 2 super SPACE services.

Mothers' Day with Katie and April with SAMS Ireland (Geoff & Claire). We had great numbers at both.

Come along in May when we see what it means to be a brave person for God. Esther will show us what it means to stand up for God!!! See you there. Chris

Queen Esther
The Brave Queen

SAINTFIELD PARISH
SUNDAY 17 MAY
10.00AM: PARISH HALL

S.P.A.C.E.
SAINTFIELD PARISH ADULTS CHILDREN EVERYONE

SAINTFIELD PARISH
SUNDAY 14 JUNE 11.00AM: PARISH HALL

FUN!

REFRESH. FOOD & CASTLES

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY 2026



Parochial Nominators

Craig McCarter (Chair)
Dawn Gordon
Stephen Erskine
Katie Cooke

Supplemental Parochial Nominators

In order

Leonard Hill
Bryce Hetherington
Geoffry Perrin
Maurice Brooks

Diocesan Synod Representatives

Craig McCarter
June Butler

Diocesan Synod Supplemental Representatives

Geoffry Perrin,
Phyllis Whiteside

Rector's Churchwarden - Linda Bloomer
Peoples' Churchwarden - Heather Todd
Rector's Glebewarden - Craig Weston
Peoples' Glebewarden - Joy Whitley

Hon Treasurer - Caroline Kearney
Hon Secretary - Stephen Erskine

Select Vestry Members –
Craig McCarter, June Butler,
Bryce Hetherington, Carol Andrews, Peter Andrews,
Pamela McNamara, Leonard Hill,
Rosemary Armstrong,
Dawn Gordon, Phyllis Whiteside

Safeguarding Panel

Kathryn Beattie (Chair)
Rosemary Armstrong
Joy Whitley
Chris Pollock (Rev)

Safeguarding has recently been re-shaped by the Church of Ireland, adopting new procedures and training. In May, new information will be made available as well as a simple pathway regarding allegations.

CONTACTS

Vicar

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07519668747
vicar@saintfieldparish.org



Parish Church Office



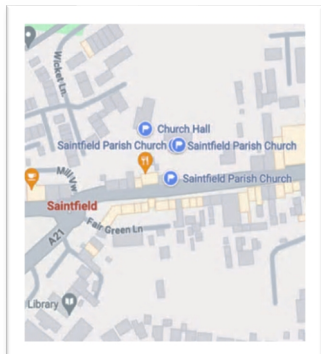
Office Administrator: Sally Milligan
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office@saintfieldparish.org

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

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**Charity Commission
NIC 101078**



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sexton@saintfieldparish.org

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William Drury 02897 561451



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Material for July & August Magazine to be with
Leonard by 20th June 2026



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Or Chris Pollock (Vicar)