

# **Saintfield Parish May Magazine**



**May 8th  
1945-2025**

## Dear Friends

On May 8, 1945, as ordinary people (along with my dad) gathered in Belfast city centre, in towns and small villages such as Saintfield, the guns finally fell silent across Europe. Nazi Germany had surrendered and the world, scarred by war, breathed a sigh of relief. Victory in Europe Day—VE Day—was not just a military victory. It was a deeply human moment offering a glimpse of hope through peace restored and new freedom won for all.

Eighty years on, this freedom still invites us to give thanks for those who laid down their lives as well as those who came home forever changed by what they had seen and endured. Men and women from every part of the Commonwealth and other democracies had stood together to ensure we would not live under dictatorship. On May 8<sup>th</sup> we honour them—with gratitude, joy and clear mandate of ensuring 'never again'.

In April we however also marked another anniversary of liberation. the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. A place of such inhuman suffering, where Allied soldiers when they entered uncovered the raw power of human cruelty—starvation, disease, torture and death. Belsen revealed a human darkness that the light of liberation broke through, so that those who witnessed its horror and those who lived through its pain also promised 'never again'.

In May 2025, the remembrance of V.E. day with its victory, the true horror of the battlefield being counted by who didn't come home, hidden death camps being revealed and the destruction of the ordinary way of life for too many people, our remembrance must always recognise the cost of that freedom won for us, rather than something we could achieve for ourselves.

In Galatians 5:1, Paul writes: **“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”** Such freedom is not only political—it is deeply spiritual. Christ came to break every chain of fear, hatred, sin and even death. His victory was not won with weapons, but with a cross. It did not just change history—it changed and still does change hearts as Jesus says, 'never again' for those who in him are set free.

So in this 80th year, let us ask ourselves as we say 'never again'.

- Are we still living in the freedom that was won for us?
- Do we fully reject the chains of hatred, racism and divisions that threaten to creep back in to our countries and politics?
- Do we recognise our calling to be peacemakers, bridge-builders, and freedom-bringers in our own generation?

This May, let us be people not just of nostalgia, but of deep resolve. Let us celebrate May 8<sup>th</sup> not just as a moment in time, but a way of life. Life shaped by the freedom Christ offers. Life that set others free through our determination as people, a nation and democracy of 'never again' Amen.



*Lord of peace,*

*On this 80th anniversary of VE Day, we thank You for the freedom won at such great cost.*

*We remember with honour those who fought, and with sorrow those who suffered.*

*We remember the victims of war and genocide. May we never forget.*

*May we never grow cold to the gift of freedom.*

*And may we live each day in the light of Christ, who has set us free. Amen.*





**Sunday**      **4 May**      **Easter 3**  
 8.30am      Holy Communion (Trad)  
 10.00am      Family Communion

**Sunday**      **11 May**      **Easter 4**  
 8.30am      Holy Communion (Trad)  
 10.00am      Morning Worship  
                  V.E. Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**Sunday**      **18 May**      **Easter 5**  
 8.30am      Holy Communion (Trad)  
 10.00am      SPACE (Parish Hall)



**Sunday**      **25 May**      **Easter 6**  
 8.30am      Holy Communion  
 10.00am      Morning Worship  
 11.00am      REFRESH

**Christian Aid Week**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

### May Tea/Coffee Rota

4 Help needed

11 Help needed

18 SPACE

25 Help needed



### Flowers

4

11 Charlotte Ross

18 Linda Bloomer

25 Valerie Smyth



WITH DEEPEST  
**SYMPATHY**

To: -

James Armstrong and family circle on the loss of James' mother, Margaret.

Reverend Chris Pollock and family circle on the loss of Chris' mother, Margaret.



Angus Rea



Holly Gourley

# Prayer Diary May



## Thursday May 1

Care Homes that Chris visits and leads worship in Residential Homes @ Silver Birch and Tully West Manor.

## Friday May 2

For our schools and their staff and children.

## Saturday May 3 For other Churches

Sam Bostock and congregation of 1<sup>st</sup> Saintfield.  
John Torrens and congregation of 2<sup>nd</sup> Saintfield.  
Father Tony McHugh and the RC Church.  
Phil Boles and fellowship of Saintfield Baptist.

## Sunday May 4

**Sunday Worship and our Jesus' Mission. For Donna in her leading of 8.30am Holy Comm.**

## Monday May 5 Bank Holiday

To relax, have time off and enjoy ourselves.

## Tuesday May 6

Those who are unemployed & unable to find work.

## Wednesday May 7

SAMS /La Paz Our partner church in La Paz Bolivia  
Pastor David and the Church of the Redeemer.  
For Claire Holmes from SAMS Ireland and Geoff Hamilton as their new Mission Director.

## Thursday May 8 VE DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

"God of peace, we gather today with gratitude and remembrance, marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe. We thank you for the courage and sacrifice of those who fought and endured during the Second World War, and for the peace that followed their efforts. We pray for the healing of wounds, both physical and emotional, and for the reconciliation of nations. May we learn from the past and strive for a future where peace and understanding prevail. Grant us wisdom to build a world where justice and love reign, and where the memory of VE Day serves as a constant reminder of the preciousness of peace. Amen."

## Friday May 9

For all we know who struggle with Mental Health.

## Saturday May 10

For those we know in Hospital and residential care.

## Sunday 11 May

**V.E. Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.**

**That we remember the freedom we have been given paid for by so many in the WW2 conflict.**

## Monday May 12 World Nurses' Day

Give thanks for all nurses who care for so many in Hospitals, Health Centres and in the districts.

## Tuesday May 13 Our Select Vestry meet tonight.

Pray for God's guidance and continued vision.

## Wednesday May 14 - Christian Aid Week.

## Thursday May 15 For all sitting exams this month.

## Friday May 16

International Day of living together in peace.  
For our broken world in its need for peace, hope and justice.

## Saturday May 17

For those who are bereaved.

## **Sunday May 18 SPACE Worship 'OPEN DOORS'**

## Monday May 19

Our Health Centres, hospitals and staff there.

## Tuesday May 20

Our staff with Sally as our Office Administrator, Ian as Sexton, William as Graveyard Convenor and Chris as Vicar.

## Wednesday May 21

For families who look after elderly parents and who face challenges and decisions about care.

## Thursday May 22

For those waiting letters to see what School they will move to in September.

## Friday May 23

For our faith and hope in Jesus that it may grow and serve and be warmed within.

## Saturday May 24

For the Middle East and peace may be embraced.

## Sunday May 25

**For Alan leading our Worship today in Church.**

## Monday May 26

To empower Bishop David and our Diocesan staff.

## Tuesday May 27 For all our new Clergy.

Wednesday May 28. For our retired clergy such as Canon Ian McDonald who serve the Church

## Weekly Schedule : Parish Centre

Here is a guide to what happens during each week in the Parish Hall during May

### Mondays

9.30am Pitter Patter (Main Hall) Mums & Tots  
**Closed 5th**

10.30am Craft & Chatter (Upper Area)  
**Closed 5th**

6.30pm Rainbows & Brownies (no Guides)  
(Woodrow Room, Main Hall)

### Tuesdays

10.00am Traditional Yoga (Main Hall)

6.45pm Pause & Restore (Upper Area)

7.30pm Indoor Bowling, finished for the year.

### Wednesdays

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

10.00am Holy Communion (Church)

10.30am Wednesday Welcome (Upper Area)

6.00pm Broadway Boogie Fitness (Main Hall)

7.00pm Broadway Boogie Fitness (Main Hall)

8.00pm Badminton (Main Hall)



### Thursdays

9.45am Happy Hatchlings  
(Baby Massage in Woodrow Room)

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

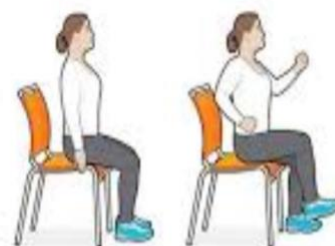
### Fridays

6.00pm Inspire Dance Company (Main Hall)

### Mothers' Union

**Saintfield Parish  
Mothers' Union  
6 May 2025**

**7.30pm  
Woodrow Room**



## ARMCHAIR AEROBICS

We enjoyed a very well attended EGV at which both the Vicar's and Treasurer's Report were presented and very well received.

The Church Wardens of Heather Todd & Pamela McNamara was announced along with the Glebe Wardens of Craig Weston & Joy Whitley.

The election of the Select Vestry took place with the following being voted on for the next year.

**Stephen Erskine, Caroline Kearney, Craig McCarter  
Bryce Hetherington, Dawn Gordon, Phyllis Whiteside  
Carol Andrews, Rosemary Armstrong, June Butler  
Leonard Hill, Peter Andrews, Linda Bloomer.**

Stephen Erskine & Caroline Kearney were subsequently voted  
Hon Secretary      Hon Treasurer

## EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

## SUNDAY APRIL 6

## AFTER FAMILY COMMUNION





# Easter Refresh/SPACE



Spring brings life  
and so does  
Christ

During winter, plants are dead or dormant, animals go into hibernation and the land turns dull and grey. Then spring arrives! Plants start to grow again and flowers bloom, animals come out of hibernation and new life is born.



The world comes alive again and we can go outside without having to bundle up in hats scarves and warm coats. Spring gives us a reminder that Christ is not dead but is risen and alive! Spring brings us hope; its vibrant colours are a visual representation of God's power to bring life from death. In winter everything looks dark and dead but suddenly up pops a beautiful flower, it helps us realise no matter how dark and bad things become, there is still hope in the darkness. Sometimes our lives can feel hard, we can feel sad, and things can sometimes go wrong, but there is always hope for the future. We need to be patient and remember, that God 'made everything beautiful in His time' and He is the one who decides when things happen. Sometimes it can be hard waiting, but God has the perfect plan to help us grow and blossom the way he wants us to and become beautiful in His eyes.

During spring we can often see a rainbow in the sky. Why not read the story of Noah which illustrates God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises.



Why not go outside and see how many signs of spring you can spot

## A wonderful Mother's Day service



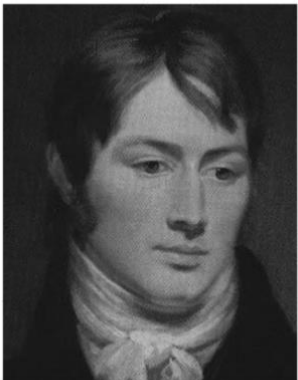
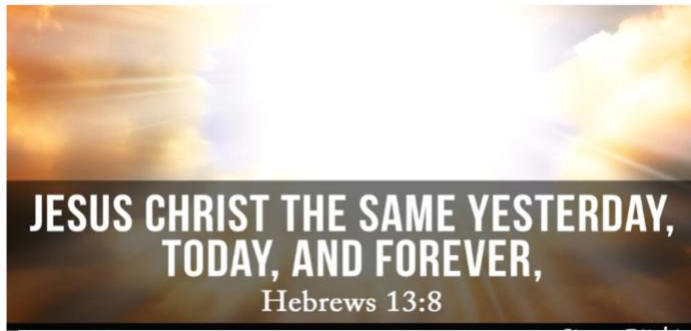
In refresh we thought about all the ways our mothers help us as we journey through life.

On Mother's Day we all made beautiful heart rings in church to remember all the ladies who are in our lives, past and present.



# Saintfield Parish 250th update

## 1776 – 2026



2026 is a very significant year for Saintfield Parish as it will mark the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish Church being consecrated for worship. It's the same year as the American Declaration of independence (July 4<sup>th</sup>) as well as the year when John Constable (the painter) was born.

The Select Vestry have been discussing how this Anniversary could be used to both celebrate our past but also help us en-vision the future 25 years. We want this mixture of 250<sup>th</sup> 'moments' to see where we have come from, generations of faithfulness that provided us with so much today. However, we must see the good foundations we must lay for future congregations as they also 'Speak Jesus' in new and relevant ways to all the community of Saintfield.

So far, some key Sundays are already in the Diary with the Archbishop of Armagh John Mc Dowell being with us for our main Service of Celebration in March 2026. Our own bishop David is with us at Harvest and our Holy Week will have a range of preachers to lead and guide us from God's Word.

Another key events will focus on a History Weekend in June (rather like the one we had for the Platinum Celebration for our late Queen Elizabeth II). Other events will take place in different seasons of the year and we will invite the Saintfield Community to be part of what is happening.

I hope and pray that our partnership with Pastor David in La Paz, Bolivia will be deepened with a possible visit to that Church and its congregation. SAMS Ireland are happy to explore this with us.

We are considering 1 or 2 merchandise to mark the year maybe with Christmas Cards and other items people might buy. We don't necessarily want to have 'pens, pencils and knick-knacks' but items that people might want to keep.

There is much to pray over and plan.

The Select Vestry will be sending a letter to each household in the Parish to invite people to be part of the organisation of such events. The Church Services are reasonably easy to manage, but the community events will need more people in teams to take on the demands of helping make things happen. Please read that letter and consider how you can best help.

It's an exciting time. Chris.



# CONTACT US



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

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**Material for the Summer  
Magazine to be with Leonard by  
May 20th 2025**

## Safeguarding Contacts

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