

**Saintfield Parish
Saints Alive Magazine
March/April 2026**



EASTER

Dear Friends, 250th Celebration & Church Tower Gift Day

This year Saintfield Parish celebrates 250 years of Christ-Like witness and service at the heart of our community. For generations, this church family has experienced Sunday Worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals and faithful Vicars, as it quietly and steadfastly proclaimed God's presence through the Risen Jesus. At the centre of our anniversary the unchanging truth of Scripture reveals why it is the Risen Jesus we worship.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8)

Our buildings age and communities change, but our Risen Christ remains constant. The Gospel preached here in 1776 in our Church is the same Good News we proclaim today and will tomorrow. It is the power and truth of resurrection that sustained this Church through seasons of growth, challenge and renewal which is the same for us now and God's plans for us to come.

On 22 March we are especially honoured that

Archbishop John McDowell (The Primate of C of I)



will join with us to help us mark not only our history, but our continuing place within the wider Church. It will be a moment of thanksgiving for all that God has done — and a prayerful commitment to what He will yet do through us. Please come along to this Worship and the Lunch afterwards and enjoy.

However, as we celebrate, we also look to the future with responsibility and faith. Part of that future are necessary repairs needed to be made to our Church Tower. Weather and time have taken their toll. Careful restoration is now needed to ensure that this visible sign of hope continues to withstand the rain and any consequences of damp. **See page 9 for details.**

We estimate the cost of **£40,000** to complete the work needed.

The Select Vestry have therefore decided that

22 March 11.00am will be a Tower Gift Day.

We need to work together to raise this money, knowing that every gift, large or small, expresses our gratitude for the past and our commitment to the future. Please respond generously.

Thank you for all your support and your faith in Jesus who has been the same for us, yesterday, today and forever. May we continue to bless each other that Jesus will be God's blessing for all in Saintfield

Chris

**JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY, TODAY AND
FOREVER.**

-HEBREWS 13:8

**Saintfield Parish
Celebration Service**

**Archbishop
John McDowell**

**Celebration
Lunch
& Cake**

**250TH
ANNIVERSARY
1776-2026**

**Tower Appeal
Gift
Day**

**Sunday 22 March
11.00 am**





Sunday	1	Lent 2
8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	Family Communion	
	Ephesians 4:1-16	
Sunday	8	Lent 3
8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	Morning Worship: Ephesians 5:23-33	
	(Foodbank Sunday)	
11.00am	REFRESH : Superheroes	Elijah
Sunday	15	Mother's Day
8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	SPACE in Parish Hall	
		Time to say thanks to all our Mums present and past and our other "Mums"
17 March Tuesday	St Patricks Day	
Holy Communion Service 10.00am Church		
Sunday	22 (One Service today)	Lent 5
		
Sunday	29	Palm Sunday
8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	Morning Worship Ephesians 6:10-20	
11.00am	REFRESH: Superheroes Jesus	

Holy Week: To Draw Near

Personal reflections on what to Draw Near to God is like through different stories of faith.



Holy Week Holy Communion 10.00am
Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday

Monday Night 7.30pm Rev Ian Gamble
To Draw Near through being Afraid.

Tuesday Night 7.30pm Canon Joanne Megarrell
To Draw Near through Struggle

Wednesday Night 7.30pm
Archdeacon Paul Dundas
To Draw Near through Busyness

Thursday Night 7.30pm Rev Geoff Hamilton
To Draw Near through Testing
(Includes Communion)

Good Friday 7.30pm Bishop Sarah Groves
To Draw Near through Joy & Tears

Easter Sunday 5 April

8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	Easter Family Communion To Draw Near through Victory Rolling Eggs in Graveyard after.	
Sunday	12	Easter 2
8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	Morning Worship:	
11.00am	Easter General Vestry (Woodrow Room)	
Sunday	19	Easter 3
8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	SPACE : SAMS Ireland Building with Bolivia	
Sunday	26	Easter 4
8.30am	Holy Communion (Trad)	
10.00am	Morning Worship	
11.00am	REFRESH: Superheroes : Isaiah	

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: PARISH HALL / UPPER AREA



Mondays

9.30am Pitter Patter (Main Hall) Mums & Tots Off Monday March 30 & April 6

- 10.30am Craft & Chatter (Upper Area)

6.30pm Rainbows Off Monday April 6 (Woodrow Room)

6.30pm Brownies Off Monday April 6 (Main Hall)

Tuesdays

6.45pm Pause & Restore (Upper Area)

- Bowls 7.30pm

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

- 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) Please Check
- 2.00pm - 4.00pm Ladies Hen Shed
- 6.45 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts (Parish Hall)

Fridays

- 10.00am – 1.00pm Patricia's Sewing class. (Upper Area) Please Check
- 5.30pm Inspire Dance Company (Main Hall) Please check

Holy Communion Wednesdays

Parish Church 10.00am (not 18/3 & 8/4)

Women's Institute

Wednesday 11 March & 8 April @ 7.45pm (Monthly)

Wednesday Welcome 10.30am – 12.30pm

March 4 & 18 April 1 & 15

Mothers' Union (Monthly)

Tuesday 3 March & 7 April
7.30pm

Select Vestry

17 March Tuesday @7.30pm

Saintfield Parish Church

St Patrick's Day

Holy Communion Service

Tuesday 17 March
10.00 am

SAMS IRELAND

GOD'S MISSION-SHAPED STORY

FLIPSIDE

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE HAS A NEW NAME & A DIFFERENT LOCATION

FLIPSIDE is an opportunity to gather & worship God, to still our hearts & to be reminded of the incredible story we are part of. Following Jesus is never passive, it is something we live, share & practice. Celebrate with us on Friday 6th March, as we partner with the church in South America.

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

7:30PM – 9:00PM

Vic-Ryn T3 Conference Centre
Lisburn BT28 2RF

From 9pm, refreshments will be served, creating space for conversation, connection & community.

PRAYERS APRIL

Monday 30 March – Holy Week

Lord Jesus, as we enter this holy week, draw us to your cross and deepen our love for you. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Tuesday 31 March

Servant King, teach us humility and faithful obedience. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Wednesday 1 April

International Children's Book Day

God of wisdom, bless children and those who shape young minds. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thursday 2 April – Maundy Thursday

“Love one another.” (John 13:34)
Lord Jesus, unite us in self-giving love.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Good Friday 3 April

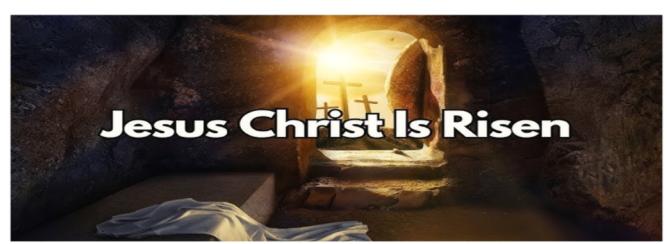
“It is finished.” (John 19:30)
Crucified Saviour, bring healing through your sacrifice. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Saturday 4 April – Holy Saturday

Lord of silence and waiting, strengthen us in hope.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Sunday 5 April – Easter Day

“Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)
Risen Lord, fill us with resurrection joy.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**



Monday 6 April – World Health Day

“See my hands.” (John 20:27)
Healing Christ, comfort the sick and strengthen carers. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Tuesday 7 April

“Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)
Breathing Lord, renew your Church in power.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Wednesday 8 April

Risen Jesus, come into our locked fears with your peace. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thursday 9 April

Lord of forgiveness, send us as witnesses of your mercy. (John 20:23)
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Friday 10 April

“Mary!” (John 20:16)
Good Shepherd, comfort those who weep.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Saturday 11 April

Faithful Lord, sustain us in quiet trust.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Sunday 12 April

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” (John 20:29) Strengthen our faith.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Monday 13 April

Risen Christ, turn our doubts into deeper trust.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Tuesday 14 April

Lord of peace, guide leaders toward justice and reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Wednesday 15 April

Shepherd of souls, lead us beside still waters.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thursday 16 April

Lord Jesus, make us faithful in small acts of love.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Friday 17 April

Lord of compassion, bring hope to the anxious and weary. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Saturday 18 April

God of patience, teach us to wait for your guidance.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Sunday 19 April

Risen Lord, fill your Church with courage and joy.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Monday 20 April – World Creativity & Innovation Day

“Cast the net on the right side.” (John 21:6) Inspire creativity that serves the common good.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Tuesday 21 April – Earth Day

Jesus stood on the shore at daybreak. (John 21:4)
Renew the earth and make us faithful stewards.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Wednesday 22 April – World Book Day

“These are written that you may believe.”
(John 20:31)
Deepen our love of Scripture.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thursday 23 April

Lord of abundance,
fill empty nets and weary hearts.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Friday 24 April – World Malaria Day

“Come and have breakfast.” (John 21:12)
Provide healing and daily bread for all in need.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Saturday 25 April

Lord of restoration, renew our strength to follow you.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Sunday 26 April

Risen Saviour, gather us again around your table.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Monday 27 April –

World Day for Safety & Health at Work

“Follow me.” (John 21:19)
Protect all in their daily labour.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Tuesday 28 April –

International Dance Day

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
(John 20:20)
Fill us with resurrection gladness.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Wednesday 29 April

Lord Jesus, keep us steadfast in love and truth.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Thursday 30th April – International Workers’ Day

“Do you love me? ...
Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15–17)
Bless all who labour and serve.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Friday 1st May

“There are many other things that Jesus did.”
(John 21:25)

Continue your work in us as we follow you.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**



REFRESH



It's a time of learning to trust God more. Sometimes people give up things for Lent (like sweets or screen time) to help them focus on prayer or gratitude. Other times, families choose to add something—like reading a Bible story together or doing kind acts for others.

As a family try and pick one thing in each category for Lent this year.

Prayers

- Say a short prayer every morning.
- Thank God for three things every night.



Fasting/giving up something

- Give up sweets or crisps
- Turn off screens for 30 minutes.
- Give up your favourite video game.
- Give up negative words and complaining.
- Turn off all devices after dinner.



Acts of Kindness

- Share a toy or game with someone else.
- Help your parents without being asked.
- Share a toy or game with someone else.
- Help your teachers without being asked.
- Help clean up without complaining.
- Invite someone to play who is alone



Proverbs 31 talks about mothers who love God like this:



“When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. Her children stand and bless her.

Her husband praises her:

‘Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.’ ”

Our mothers are wise and kind, and they are treasured by the Lord.

- Think about a time when your mum was kind to you.

God loves all mothers, and He wants us to love our mothers, too! He says, “Her children stand and bless her.”

- What are some ways you can bless your mum this week?

We have so much to be thankful for when it comes to our mums and those who love us like mothers. God used them to bring us into the world, and He uses them every day to lead us and love us just like Him.

- As we celebrate Mother's Day, let's tell Mum that we love her, but more importantly, let's remember to show her that we love her.

Thank you, God, for mothers. Thank you for their love, patience, kindness, wisdom, and their hearts for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



We have some of these Lent Family Books available.

In Church or just ask Chris



He is Risen!

EASTER WORD SEARCH

H	E	C	G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	B	A	R	Z	D	A	S
G	A	O	N	G	I	M	T	E	R	S	L	A	M	B	O	F	G	O	D
R	A	P	O	Y	V	C	R	O	W	N	O	C	E	M	E	L	S	A	R
C	E	B	P	H	E	N	T	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	L	I	F	E	O
O	B	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	U	R	N	E	I	I	W	O	G	C
R	A	S	I	L	A	C	T	E	H	U	P	V	N	T	L	R	N	M	O
B	R	P	E	Y	E	R	O	R	O	L	R	A	E	I	Y	A	B	E	W
I	D	H	C	T	S	T	R	C	L	U	A	R	L	N	H	O	B	P	E
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J	E	S	U	S	B	N	B	A	O	L	E	N	T	L	Q	U	N	A	G
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R	A	S	E	L	L	E	N	E	W	T	E	S	T	A	M	E	N	T	O
E	N	A	N	G	E	L	I	R	O	N	T	R	E	G	E	O	R	N	T

EASTER
HOLY THURSDAY
GOOD FRIDAY
PALM SUNDAY
CROSS
JESUS

BIBLE
RESURRECTION
CHURCH
LAMB OF GOD
CROWN
TOMB

ANGEL
ALLELUIA
LENT
PRAYER
VIGIL
HOLY WEEK

LAST SUPPER
LILY
ETERNAL LIFE
VESPERS
APOSTLES
NEW TESTAMENT

CHURCH TOWER

APPEAL 2026

Over the past years, the Select Vestry have followed a plan to upgrade and maintain our buildings.

In 2019, we as a parish completed a total renovation of the Parish Hall. In 2023, we renovated the Vicarage and now we need to address necessary repairs to our Church Tower. These were highlighted in the recent 5 yearly Report that the Diocese creates for each Parish about their buildings.

Essentially, the Report identified works that would:

Take down and re-build all pinnacles to Tower.

Re-dress flashings to flat roof to Tower and temporary patching.

Provide waterproof covering to floor to Tower below Bell.

Fit Lead to first stage Tower ledge.

Fit ventilated pane to Tower window.

Renew the flat roof covering to Tower.

This project has been costed at £40,000. We will use Lead as the best material to stop water leaking into the Tower and begin to dry out the slight damp we already have. As you can also see, the pinnacles need repaired with the recent storm creating more damage. The steel cramps inside each pinnacle needs to be replaced.

The programme of works could hopefully begin in June and will include scaffolding, most likely behind the Tower.

So....we need to raise £40,000 through our Gift Day available Church grants and other money people may donate through 250th events. We will aim to finish our fund raising by Christmas. We also have money generously given by two American families (Connor & Moffat) which came to around £5k. I was so very encouraged with their huge blessing.

So on 22 March, a Gift Day we will produce envelopes to use as well as a leaflet with our bank details. Please prayerfully consider what you can give that this work can be completed and paid for this year. Thank you
Chris & The Select Vestry.



Loose patch repair to Tower pinnacles



Poor past repairs to Tower roof

Saintfield Parish
Helen's Bay Parish

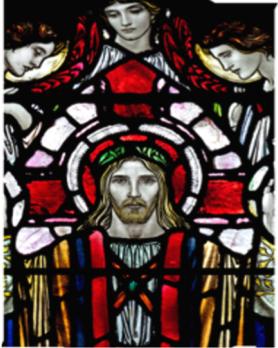
**gospel
windows**

A talk on the
Karl Parsons'
Stained Glass Window
in each Church




Dr David Caron
National Churches Trust

**@Saintfield
Parish Church
Saturday 7 March
10.30am**

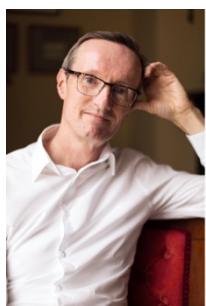


Saturday 7 March

Gospel Windows 10.30am

County Down is fortunate to have two fine windows created by Karl Parsons who was one of the leading twentieth-century English stained-glass artists associated with the Arts and Crafts movement.

The two windows date from the 1920s and are the only examples of his work on the island of Ireland and are located a relatively short distance apart from each other in St John Baptist Church of Ireland, Helen's Bay and the Church of Saintfield.



**Dr David Caron is giving a talk on
the story behind the windows,
their symbolism and their
uniqueness**

David Caron's PhD research at Trinity College Dublin focused on Michael Healy and the stained-glass artists of An Túr Gloine.

He was one of the three original compilers of the Gazetteer of Irish stained glass in 1988 and was editor and principal author of the revised and expanded edition in 2021.

His book, Michael Healy, 1873-1941: An Túr Gloine's stained glass pioneer, was published by Four Courts Press in 2023. His most recent book, just published, is Dublin's-Stained Glass – a guide to the finest twentieth-century windows. He is currently researching a book on the best of Ulster's twentieth-century stained glass.

This is a free event and there will be light refreshments served afterwards.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

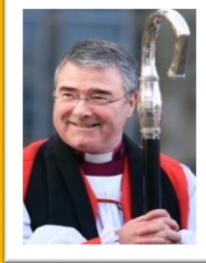
Saturday 7 March 10.30am

The story of our Stained-Glass Window
Dr. David Caron:
Churches National Trust



Sunday 22 March 11.00am

Our 250th Celebration Worship
Preacher: Archbishop of Armagh
The Most Reverend John McDowell
Followed by a Celebration Parish Lunch



Holy Week & Easter: Draw Near

Every Evening 7.30pm Guest Speakers who will share what to Draw Near to God means to through life experiences.
Monday 31 March – Good Friday. This leads to Easter Sunday.

Saturday 13 June

10.00am – 4.00pm
Saintfield Parish/Community
History Day



September

Visitation from David & Marcia,
our partner church in Bolivia



Friday 9 October 7.45pm

New Irish Arts Concert
Saintfield High School



Sunday 11 October 10.00am

250th Harvest Thanksgiving
Bishop of Down & Dromore
Rt. Rev. David McClay

Sunday 8 November 10.00am

Remembrance Sunday involving
community poppies



Friday 4 – Sat 5 –

Sun 6 December
Christmas Tree Festival in Church

Sunday 20 Dec

Christmas Carols & Worship
Wellington Silver Band

9 FACTS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION

Based on the information in
Evidence That Demands a Verdict

1 Christianity is worthless without the resurrection.

1 Cor. 15:14 (NKJV): And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

Scholars agree that without the resurrection there is no Christianity (ETDV 236 – 237).

2 The resurrection is foundational to our faith.

Without the reality of the resurrection, Christianity claims no real hope or truth.

1 Cor. 15:17 (NKJV): And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

3 The resurrection validates everything Jesus said.

Matthew 12:40 (NKJV): For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus claimed both messiahship and divinity. His resurrection proved it.

According to C.S. Lewis' trilemma, Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or He was indeed Lord.

BECAUSE

WHAT WAS JESUS' RESURRECTION?

4 The resurrection was the reversal of death.

What the early Christians proclaimed through Jesus' resurrection was unique in the Greco-Roman world.

The complete reversal of death was so radical, it wasn't permitted in mythology (ETDV 233).

5 Jesus appeared to many people.

The New Testament records multiple times when Jesus appeared not as a spirit but in physical form (ETDV 264).

John 2:19 (NKJV): Jesus answered and said to them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'

HOW DO WE KNOW?

WAS HIS DEATH REAL?

6 Jesus' crucifixion is a known fact.

Both skeptical and believing scholars conclude He lived and was crucified at the hands of the Romans (ETDV 246-247).

7 Multiple eyewitnesses tell the story.

1 Cor. 15:5-6 (NKJV): ...and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.

DID SOMEONE SEE IT?

8 The resurrection changed the disciples.

The scared disciples became willing to give their lives for Jesus (ETDV Chapter 13).

They openly proclaim Jesus as Christ. Read Peter's message in Acts 2.

9 We have hope in the resurrection.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV): For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

WHAT ABOUT US?

John 10:10 (NKJV): The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

CONTACTS

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Parish Church Office



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Sally will be off from Monday 9 February to a date to be specified.

The Office will be open Tues – Thursday 10.00am – 12.00pm and we will try to answer needs as they arise.

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BT24 7AB



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Material for May magazine to be with Leonard by 20th of April 2026



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