

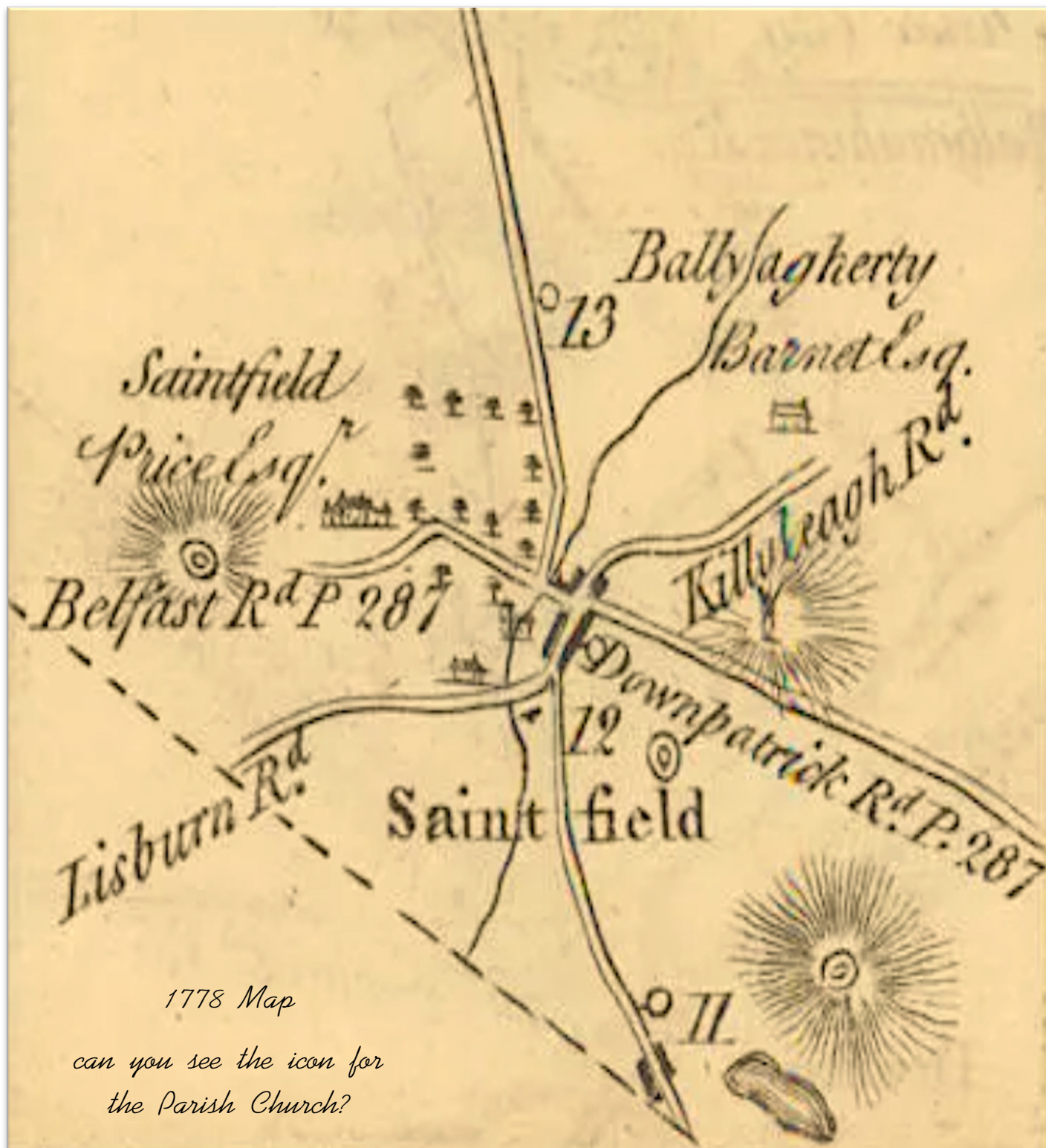
# Saintfield Parish

Saints Alive  
Magazine  
October 2025



250 YEARS OF SERVING JESUS

Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup> 10.00am

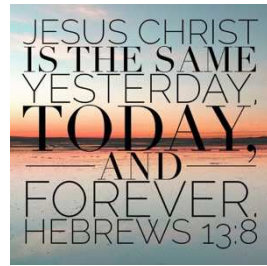


1778 Map

can you see the icon for  
the Parish Church?

## Dear Friends

I have stood on top of our church tower only a handful of times. The first was during a fundraising event in 2004; the others were simply moments to pause, look out over Saintfield and imagine all the tower has seen. Though not fully completed until fifty years after its beginning, even the original structure was probably the tallest point in the town. Stand there today and you can still trace the same roads, fields and contours shown on old maps and glimpse how Saintfield has become what it now is.



For two and a half centuries the church tower has been a silent witness, quietly watching history unfold: the rise of the linen trade, the Battle of 1798, two world wars and the changing rhythms of rural life. Through it all, the Parish Church has been a fixed point—a visible reminder that while everything changes, Christ does not.

Our church has endured storms, the passing of empires and the bustle of a growing community. From horse-drawn carts to motorcars, from candlelight to electric light, its stone walls and sturdy tower remain. Inside, generations have gathered, farmers and merchants, soldiers and schoolchildren, families and individuals. Baptisms, weddings, funerals and Sunday worship have filled the same space, proclaiming again the faithfulness of Christ.

The font at the back has welcomed countless infants. The pulpit has proclaimed the gospel across generations. The Communion Table has fed the faithful with bread and wine. The pews have held the weary, the joyful, the doubting and the devoted—all meeting the same Christ. It's amazing to think that prayers whispered in 1776 mingle with hymns sung today. The Christ who heard generations past still hears us now. The Spirit who inspired faith then still inspires faith today.

Through these centuries our bell has rung, Scripture has been proclaimed, and prayer has been offered. This place has been a refuge and a celebration, open to the changing community but held fast by an unchanging Lord. As we celebrate 250 years, we do not only look back with gratitude but forward with hope. The tower will continue to stand, but our mission is alive and moving and needs us to grow in Jesus and share him with all.

In the future we must pray for:

- Worship that honours Christ and welcomes every generation.
- A building open, hospitable and well cared-for for the sake of the community.
- A congregation renewed by the gospel, living out Christ's love in Saintfield and beyond.

- A special heart for young families, so that new generations may find a spiritual home here and grow in faith together.

This Harvest Thanksgiving will be a time to show what is already planned and focus on what else next year could be shaped into and be made possible. Here however is a basic shape already in place.

- There will be an opening Service on Sunday 10 January and will set the scene for the year.
- The Archbishop of Armagh John McDowell will be with us on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 10.00am.
- There will a Holy Week with special preachers throughout.
- We are planning a 'History Weekend' in June and a Christmas event to tie in with the Street Fair.
- Our own Bishop will be with us at Harvest 11 October 10.00am.
- I would love to see the possible visit either to Bolivia or them to us take place through SAMS and to let that partnership grow.
- We will collect for the Ballynahinch Foodbank and take a plate collection for our partner church in La Paz, Bolivia.
- During 2026, there will be a 'Tower Project. Repairs are needed to be carried and protection from future erosion and damp.

2026 will be such a great opportunity for all to be involved building on the past that our present and future of this Parish will grow.

Maybe at the end of 2026, I will stand again on top of our tower as it rises over a new Saintfield—one of challenge and change. But Jesus, the same unchanging Christ will always still be here: faithful, present, calling each of us onwards, welcoming every generation as the hope of life for all. Let that be our prayer for 2026 and for all the years ahead of us.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, who are the same yesterday, today and forever, we thank You for this parish, for its enduring walls and for Your enduring presence.

May this church continue to be a home of faith, a witness to hope and a place where generations will always meet You.

Strengthen us for the years ahead, that we may serve our community and glorify Your name. Amen



# Come WORSHIP WITH US!

Read 1 & 2 Thess each day and tick!!!!

**Sunday October 5 Trinity 16**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)  
10.00am Family Communion  
Come & See Jesus : Curiosity : The secret

**Sunday 12 Harvest. Trinity 17**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)  
10.00am Harvest Thanksgiving  
Foodbank offering Plate / Cash Offering  
for SAMS Partner Church in La Paz, Bolivia

**We are decorating Harvest Church  
on October 11 Saturday Morning 10.00am**

11.00am. REFRESH : Come & See Jesus: Matthew

**Sunday 19 Trinity 18**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)  
10.00am SPACE (Parish Hall)  
Come & See Jesus : Curiosity : A different angle

**Sunday 26 Last Sunday of Trinity**  
8.30am Holy Communion (Trad)  
10.00am Morning Worship & Baptism  
Come & See Jesus : Curiosity : What it means to trust

11.00am REFRESH : Come and see Jesus

<b>Oct 1</b>	<b>1 Thess 1:1-4</b>
<b>Oct 2</b>	1 Thess 1:5-8
<b>Oct 3</b>	1 Thess 1:9-10 + 2:1
<b>Oct 4</b>	1 Thess 2:2-6
<b>Oct 5</b>	1 Thess 2:7-12
<b>Oct 6</b>	1 Thess 2:13-16
<b>Oct 7</b>	1 Thess 2:17-20 + 3:1
<b>Oct 8</b>	1 Thess 3:2-5
<b>Oct 9</b>	1 Thess 3:6-10
<b>Oct 10</b>	1 Thess 3:11-13 + 4:1
<b>Oct 11</b>	1 Thess 4:2-6
<b>Oct 12</b>	1 Thess 4:7-12
<b>Oct 13</b>	1 Thess 4:13-15
<b>Oct 14</b>	1 Thess 4:16-18 + 5:1
<b>Oct 15</b>	1 Thess 5:2-6
<b>Oct 16</b>	1 Thess 5:7-11
<b>Oct 17</b>	1 Thess 5:12-15
<b>Oct 18</b>	1 Thess 5:16-22
<b>Oct 19</b>	1 Thess 5:23-28 + 2 Thess 1:1
<b>Oct 20</b>	2 Thess 1:2-5
<b>Oct 21</b>	2 Thess 1:6-10
<b>Oct 22</b>	2 Thess 1:11-12 + 2:1
<b>Oct 23</b>	2 Thess 2:2-5
<b>Oct 24</b>	2 Thess 2:6-8
<b>Oct 25</b>	2 Thess 2:9-12
<b>Oct 26</b>	2 Thess 2:13-15
<b>Oct 27</b>	2 Thess 2:16-17 + 3:1
<b>Oct 28</b>	2 Thess 3:2-5
<b>Oct 29</b>	2 Thess 3:6-9
<b>Oct 30</b>	2 Thess 3:10-13
<b>Oct 31</b>	2 Thess 3:14-18 (closing Prayer & Benediction)



## October Tea/Coffee Rota

- 5 Need help
- 12 Need Help
- 19 SPACE (Hall)
- 26 Liz & Help please

## Flowers

- 5 William Drury
- 12 Harvest
- 19 Helen Saville
- 26 Sue Erskine



## Harvest Sunday:

Please bring to Church or drop in to Sally in Office or Church the week before.



I have been thinking for some time we could offer people prayer ministry at the end of Monthly Communion Service.

I would like to chat to anyone who would like some training to partner me in this. Chris



## Prayer Diary for each day in October 2025



### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

A new month in October  
Show me your ways, O Lord,  
teach me your paths; guide

me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my  
Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.  
Psalm 25:4–5, NIV

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>** Schools @Academy Primary, Saintfield  
High, Millenium that our young people attend.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>** International Day of the older persons.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

Local Care Homes that Chris visits and leads worship  
in Residential Homes @ Silver Birch, Tully West Manor  
& Beechvale in Killyleagh.

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Other Saintfield Churches  
Sam Bostock and congregation in 1<sup>st</sup> Saintfield.  
John Torrens and congregation in 2<sup>nd</sup> Saintfield.  
Father Tony McHugh and RC Church.  
Baptist Church and Phil Bowles their new pastor.

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

For SAMS /La Paz Our partner church in La Paz  
Bolivia with Pastor David and the Church of the  
Redeemer congregation.

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

For our Sunday Worship and Communion.  
International Day of Teachers.

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

For those who are bereaved and find every day hard  
without their loved ones no matter the years.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** For our Mothers' Union Meeting tonight

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** The Diocese, Bishop David and the  
staff team in Diocesan office and especially the call of  
new Youth Workers to serve all.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** Families who look after elderly parents  
and who face challenges and decisions about care.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** World Mental Health Day

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** Our generosity to support the  
Ballynahinch Food bank this Sunday in Church

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

Harvest Service today and it's call for us to be  
generous to Foodbank and our Partner Church in  
Bolivia. For the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary introduction to  
enthuse and excite us as to what lies ahead in 2026.

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup>

Our Church events in the Hall that people are blessed  
in using them this month

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** Those who are expecting babies that  
they keep well and know God's safety and blessing.

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday Welcome Upper Area. Friends together

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

Jo & Joel who are being being married today.

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

Those who struggle with depression and mental health  
challenges.

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>

Our SPACE worship tomorrow in the Hall.

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

SPACE Worship for everyone in the Hall for all.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** Our own families and all who live away.

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>

Our Select Vestry and its responsibilities

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Those with young babies and the challenge of new  
patterns and needs being met

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** United Nations Day

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>

Those who play sport their safety and protection.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>** Angus and his baptism with Ella and  
William his parents. REFRESH Worship at 11.00am

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** Our volunteers in Church and for more to  
come forward.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** Those who are ill with cancer and  
coping with its treatment and those in remission.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>** Our broken world and for peace.  
All conflict to cease and hope and healing to be  
known.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>** For our local Church of Irelands and  
those whose Ministers are new and settling in.  
Claire & Anna.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup>** For a safe Hallowe'en and family fun.

*Dear God, on this night when the world celebrates the  
dark, we pray for your light and protection to surround  
our communities. Please keep all children safe and  
guided by your love as they enjoy their Halloween  
festivities. May they encounter your light, and may we,  
as your people, be bold to share your truth and grace  
with our neighbours and community. Amen*

# Weekly Activities : Parish Hall/Upper Area

## Mondays

9.30am Pitter Patter (Main Hall) Mums & Tots  
Half Term Oct 27

10.30am Craft & Chatter (Upper Area)

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

## Tuesdays

10.00am Traditional Yoga (Main Hall)

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  
October 8/22 (Upper Area)

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



## Thursdays

9.45am Happy Hatchlings  
(Baby Massage in Woodrow Room)

10.00am - 12.45pm Patricia's Sewing Class  
(Upper Area) Holding a cup of coffee

2.00pm - 4.00pm Ladies Hen

6.45 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts (Parish Hall)

## Fridays

10.00am Patricia's Sewing class. Oct 3/17

6.00pm Inspire Dance Company (Main Hall)

## Wednesday Welcome Thank you to Anne



Wednesday Welcome said a big THANK YOU to Anne Drury who since it started has been one of the key leaders / organisers and the maker of lovely eats as well as beautiful crafts.

She has given so much of her time and effort and WW has been greatly blessed through her giftings and presence. Chris

**Holy Communion**  
Parish Church 10.00am

**Women's Institute**  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7.45pm (Monthly)

**Wednesday Welcome**  
October 1/15/29 10.30am (Upper Area)

**Mothers' Union (Monthly)**  
October Tuesday 7 @ 7.30pm

**Select Vestry**  
October Tuesday 14 @ 7.30pm  
(Woodrow Room)

## A little thought

When someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere. Why did you spill the coffee?  
"Well because someone bumped into me, of course!"

Wrong answer. You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea. Whatever is inside the cup, is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled \*So we must ask ourselves... "what's in my cup?" When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility?  
Or anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions?





Can you match the Disney best friends?

Woody	Mike
Sulley	Pumba
Lilo	Elsa
Carl	Buzz
Anna	Russell
Timon	Stitch

Friends are great to have! It is someone to play with, share things with, to help you out in times of trouble and to have fun with.

However sometimes friendships can be difficult, especially when they hurt us or say nasty things to us. Being a good friend means being willing to help a person and to discover what they need to help them be happy.

In Toy story Woody was very jealous of Buzz when he arrived. He immediately disliked him because he was getting too much attention, and it made Woody mad. Buzz thought he was a real space ranger and not a toy. Woody was not kind to Buzz and found him annoying and tried to tell him he was only a toy!

When Buzz discovered the truth, he was very sad and unhappy. He thought he was useless. Woody saw how sad he was and helped him realise how wonderful it was to be a special toy. Once Woody saw Buzz differently and in need of help, he was able to love him, and they became very good friends.

In Disney stories, many of the best friends didn't really like each other to begin with but later they became great friends. Jesus says we should love everyone and not just those who are kind to us. Just because some people are annoying and irritating doesn't mean they don't deserve our love. If we are nice and kind it might just turn an enemy into a friend.

Jesus wants us to follow his example and be loving, generous, encouraging, respectful, reliable, helpful, honest and faithful.

### Jesus was a good friend

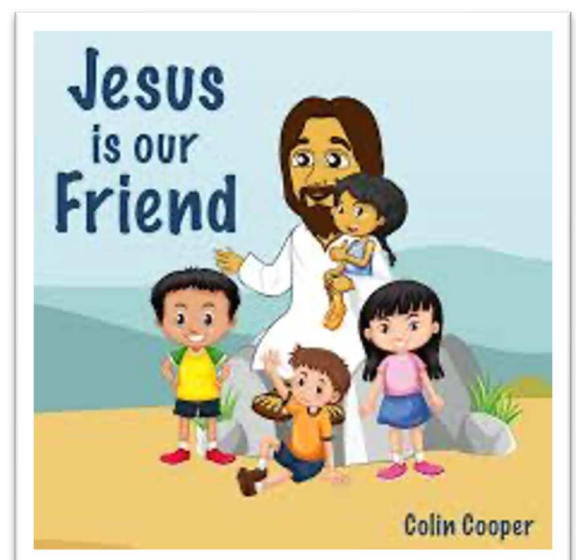
In the bible Jesus often made friends with people who were not popular or welcome in the town. Read the following stories to find out more.

Luke 19 1-10 Jesus and a Tax collector

John 4 1-15 Jesus and a woman

John 11 1-16 Jesus and a dead man.

In refresh we are hearing about Jesus finding his friends who become his disciples.

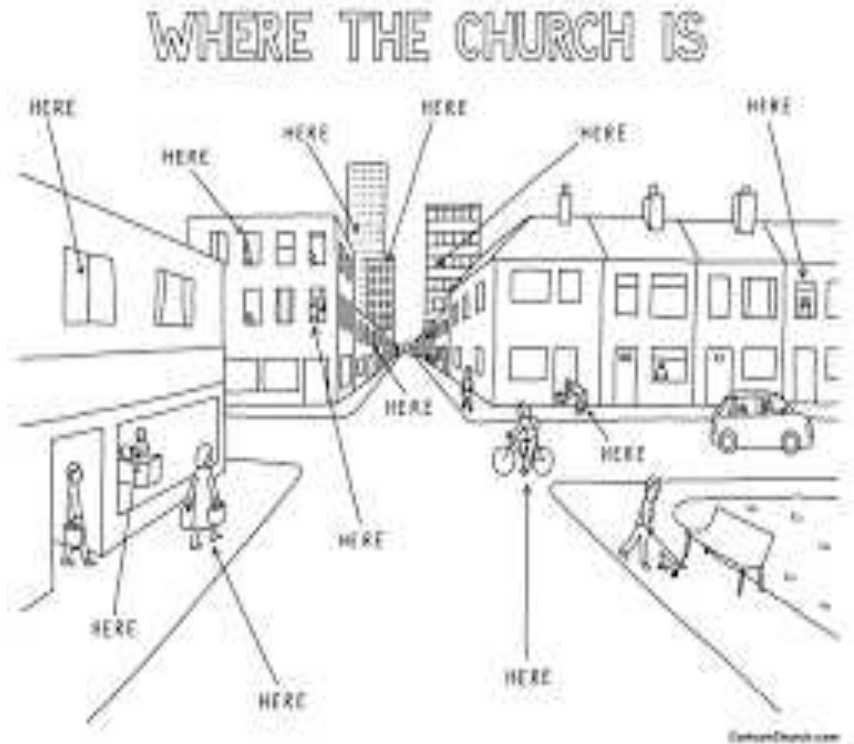


Dear Jesus, thank you for friends both old and new. Help us to share our toys and our hearts and to enjoy this adventure together. Amen

## Congratulations to Rose



Rose who was our Youth worker in 2023-24 and married James 30/8/25



## In Sympathy



Jim Rountree January 1923 – September 2025

Our photo is of Jim when we as a Church were able to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. That was over 2 ½ Years ago and Jim during this lifetime was exactly as you see, someone comfortable with people, relaxed and who enjoyed what life brought to him. Jim also was committed to sharing who he was and what he was able to do.

Since the mid-eighties, Jim was very involved with the Parish in all sorts of projects (The planning and construction of the Upper Area and Woodrow Room extension was under his management) but much more than that, Jim trusted in Jesus. He and Joan were in church every week, engaged in Bible Studies and supported everything that sought to bring glory to God.

Joan sadly passed away in 2015, but through Christ are re-united together. We give thanks for his life and faith and the blessing it brought this Church. We pray for Caroline and Karen and all the family. Chris

## La Paz Church, Bolivia

Here is Pastor David and the congregation of Church of the Redeemer, La Paz, Bolivia.

**We are passing the collection plate on Harvest Sunday to collect money**

to support the work they do in the community, hospitals and youth. We will develop our link increasingly with them and hopefully in 2026 manage something more special





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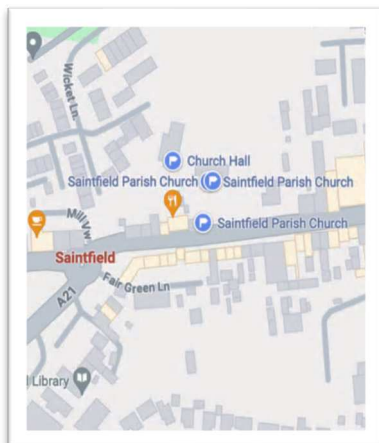
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Tuesday - Friday  
9.00am - 2.00pm  
(Fri @ 12.30pm)

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***Material for November to be with Leonard by  
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