

December 2023
&
January 2024
CONTACT
Magazine



*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."
(Luke 2: 11-12)*

**"CONNECTING WITH THE LORD,
ONE ANOTHER AND THE COMMUNITY"**
Christ Church Website Address: www.christchurchlisburn.co.uk
Email: christchurchparishlisburn@gmail.com

Worship on a Sunday

Sunday 26th November – Sunday before Advent – Stir Up Sunday **[Gifts for Salvation Army & Lisburn Foodbank]**

- 11.30 am Family Communion – Ephesians 1: 15-23 & Matthew 25: 31-46 ‘Whatever you did for me....’
6.30 pm Bereavement Service – Rev Paul Jamison, Hillhall Presbyterian Church

Sunday 3rd December – Advent Sunday

- 8.30 am Holy Communion – Gen 22: 1-18 & Mark 13: 24-37
11.30 am Advent Carol Service - Gen 22: 1-18 - ‘Journey to Bethlehem’ (1)
4.00 pm Christmas Messy Church in the Hall

Sunday 10th December – Advent 2

- 11.30 am Morning Worship - Isaiah 9: 1-7 - ‘Journey to Bethlehem’ (2)

Sunday 17th December – Advent 3

- 11.30 am Morning Worship - Matthew 3: 1-12 - ‘Journey to Bethlehem’ (3)
6.30 pm Carol Service with the parish choir

Sunday 24th December – Christmas Eve

- 11.30 am Nativity with KLIC & JAM group
11.15 pm Christmas Eve Communion – Titus 2: 11-14 & Luke 2: 1-15

Monday 25th December – Christmas Day

- 8.30 am Christmas Communion with hymns – Titus 2: 11-14 & Luke 2: 1-15
10.30 am Family worship for Christmas Day
[Praise Group, Men’s Choir]

Sunday 31st December – Christmas 1

- 11.30 am Morning Worship – ‘Waiting on God’s purposes’ [1] Luke 2: 25-35
6.30 pm Evening Worship – Watchnight Service with refreshments – ‘Waiting on God’s purposes’ [2] Luke 2: 21-24 & 36-40

Sunday 7th January – Epiphany 1

- 8.30 am Holy Communion – Ephesians 3: 1-12 & Matthew 2: 1-12
11.30 am Morning Worship

Sunday 14th January – Epiphany 2

- 11.30 am Morning Worship – Encounters with Jesus [John 1: 43-51]

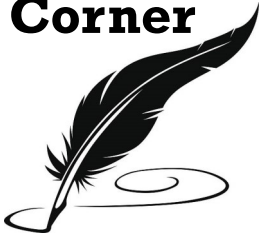
Sunday 21st January – Epiphany 3

- 11.30 am All Age Worship – Christina Baillie, Youth Officer
6.30 pm Evening Worship – Psalm 62 ‘Wait quietly’

Sunday 28th January – Epiphany 4

- 11.30 am Family Communion – 1 Timothy 6: 1-10 & Mark 1: 21-28
CAP/Stewardship Series

Rector's Corner



A particular highlight in recent months was our Café Church when Bishop George led and spoke about 'Growing healthy Churches'. Around 40 people gathered around tables for worship, a short interview with George, prayer, opening God's Word, listening and sharing. George shared the challenges facing him when he was appointed Bishop of Connor as Covid was beginning. He opened up Colossians chapter 1 and discussion followed. He felt very relaxed in this teaching role and brought great challenges to us as we looked at God's Word and our situation. I reflect on him taking time with some of our people during the discussion times who maybe were not used to this type of 'church'. The Gospel had made an impact on these people and it was bearing fruit. We explored the evidence of this bearing fruit in our parish and the things to pray for to enable us to continue to grow. It was a helpful evening as we continue to explore growing a 'healthy church'.

Bishop George values all who pray for him and for that wisdom and knowledge in his role:

***'So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.'* [Col 1: 9]**

Harvest Thanksgiving

We began with Messy Church in the hall on Sunday 24th September in the afternoon with Victoria Jackson speaking. It was wonderful to have Victoria with us as she has returned from maternity leave after the birth of her daughter April. It is encouraging to have families with us on these afternoons in building community. There was a lot of mess with the planting of the cress but great joy through the songs, teaching and food. We look forward to our 'Christmas Messy Church' on Sunday 3rd December at 4.00 pm with our curate Gareth leading this time with the team.

We gathered for 3 Harvest Services on Sunday 1st October with the church beautifully decorated. Gifts for the Foodbank were brought to the church and parishioners were also very generous to the work of missions and charities. Thank you to Ross for leading the choir and men's choir in their pieces but it was good to see so many more at worship and enjoying fellowship as well. It was wonderful to see the hall full on the Tuesday morning for Applefest with Ann and her team providing some sumptuous eats based around apples. It was a joy to have the choir of Old Warren PS

present on that morning as they sang 5 pieces of music for all gathered.

CLCGB 130th Regimental Service

It was our joy to host this service on Sunday 1st October when we had Archbishop John McDowell and Bishop George Davison with us alongside staff from England. There was a lot of joy and noise in the service which was led by the Rev Paul McAdam and myself. Our praise group led the worship and Lynn Adams gave an all-age talk and Archbishop John also spoke. All present were able to parade to and from the church on a beautiful autumn day.

Parish organisations

The rhythm of parish life was very evident in this autumn as the groups met each day or night. Some are flourishing while others have small numbers. Some have welcomed new members or leaders. The connections and fellowship are so important in the world we live in today. In our church family, it is wonderful to see the rhythm of parish organisations which enable people to have time together but find purpose and welcome, to use their gifts especially time and being present with people.

One of the joys of being a rector is popping in with parish organisations and seeing and hearing the buzz and engagement. I popped in to the first of the Acorn Club meetings in October which is for senior citizens and the coffee bar was full as our curate Gareth shared about himself, his faith, calling and journey. It was encouraging to have 11 young people attend Connor Takes the Castle at Castlewellan in October with Beverley and Jane being our leaders. Gareth and I popped down to see them and it was wonderful when they reported back at our all-age worship about the fun, worship, games and lack of sleep. We are building on this group as Gareth takes the Confirmation Group on a Sunday night at 7.30 pm.

We have a **library** now in the coffee bar and people are encouraged to bring a Christian book with a short note on what the book is about and how it spoke to them as well as borrow and read a book. Speak to Gareth or Vera for more information.

The room beside the office is being given a new lease of life for our Confirmation Group and youth but it will also serve for a small group meeting as well. We will endeavour to look at options for a prayer space in our buildings that is easy accessible and visible for parishioners.

The Sanctuary Course

The course was run by Church's Ministry of Healing at The Mount in

Belfast in the autumn and Roberta Thompson, Beth Harris, Wesley Dickinson and myself attended the 8 week course. The course is about mental health and faith, looking at mental health and illness in order to create a safe and supported sense of belonging. It is there to inspire and equip people and churches.

We hope to run this course in the parish and it is open to anyone who wants to journey through the various themes of the course, who is facing mental health illnesses, who supports someone with mental health and for our leaders and volunteers. All are welcome but please do let me know by Sunday 14th January to prepare the resources.

We begin on Tuesday 16th January at 7.30 pm. Each night will include a video presentation and discussion. We hope to have a resource booklet as you journey with each session.

Advent

We live in a world where Christmas is in our face from October and yet many have fatigue by the time of the 25th of December! We are deeply challenged to focus on the love of God in the gift of Jesus as the babe of Bethlehem, the Saviour of the world when we watch advertisements, are encouraged to spend and indulge ourselves.

Advent is the beginning of the church's year and is a time of preparation for the 'coming of the Saviour'. This year our curate Gareth will do a 3 week series beginning on Sunday 3rd December at our morning worship. Do pray for this series that Gareth will share on these mornings.

Do also use the daily readings to draw close to the story of Christ's coming but also preparing ourselves for his second coming as judge. Take time to find that quiet place to ponder the wonder of the plan of salvation for the world.

We will host the Lisburn & Castlereagh PSNI Community Carol Service on Monday 11th December at 11.00 am in the church with a local school singing and input from Lisburn Foodbank and Bishop George Davison will share a thought for Christmas. There will be light refreshments in the hall after the service. Do invite friends to this Carol Service and to our worship at Christmas. We do think of others at this time of year and already parishioners will have donated to Lisburn Foodbank and the Salvation Army in late November.

We remember our friends at St Apollo through the Christmas bauble

scheme. See the notice in this magazine for information. It is a way of us all supporting this school community who are presently on their summer holidays but we know that the church is closely linked and we pray for them all at this Christmas time. I have asked about sponsoring a child at St Apollo through Fields of Life and have been informed that there are presently no more children to be sponsored at the school but if any wish to sponsor children in Uganda, do contact the Fields of Life office on 028 92 636200.

Christmas

Our worship begins with our parish Carol Service on Sunday 17th December at 6.30 pm with our parish choir. This is followed by refreshments in the hall afterwards.

The nativity is on Sunday 24th December at 11.30 am with our KLIC & JAM groups taking part.

We gather later that night at 11.15 pm for our Christmas Eve Communion Service and then on Christmas Day we have an early Communion Service at 8.30 am followed by an all-age family service at 10.30 am. Our children and young people can bring some of their Christmas gifts to this service. Our men's choir will also be singing at the 10.30 am service on Christmas morning.

The following Sunday is New Year's Eve and we have services at 11.30am and a watchnight service at 6.30 pm followed by a cuppa in the church.

As we journey this year through Advent to Christmas, we pray for light into the darkness in places such as Israel/Gaza and Ukraine. Around 2000 years ago Jesus was born in Bethlehem, bringing light into the darkness of the world then. Not only do we need light, love and peace but salvation. Mankind needs salvation. We are imploding as a world but yet we often think we can shape our own destiny without any reference to Jesus. I pray we would take time to draw near to the one who was born in Bethlehem to save us from our sins, to draw us back to the Father, to bring us peace and to walk in the ways of the Father and worship Him.

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” [Luke 2: 13,14]

Blessings in the name of the One who came as Saviour of the World

Paul

Journey to Bethlehem

Advent
Sermon Series

3rd, 10th & 17th December
11.30 am



Family Matters

Bereavements in the Parish

Thomas Kerr
Thea Presho
Winifred McComb
Olive Russell
Rachel (Rae) Curry
Margaret Wilson
Denise Carson



Decorating the Church for Christmas

will take place
on
Friday, 13th December at 9.30 am

All help will be greatly appreciated.

**Please come along and help
decorate Christ Church for
Christmas this year.**



A few weeks ago, Paul invited us all to participate in a prayer exercise as part of our ongoing diocesan theme of Growing Healthy Churches. During our Sunday morning service and then again at our evening café church, small slips of paper were distributed amongst those present and we asked you to write both a blessing you have received from being a part of our community at Christ Church, and also an area of parish life to pray for in our continued development towards becoming the healthiest church we can be.

These slips of paper containing your blessings and hopes became the priorities on which we based our prayers, and we keep these to refer to in order to have a greater understanding of what matters most to people.

Resoundingly, the greatest blessing to the people of our church family comes in the form of those that attend and worship alongside them, be that through welcome, through friendships they had made and even through the support they had received in times of sickness or bereavement. In fact, two thirds of those that participated named this aspect of church life as their greatest blessing.

In our second category of prayer, a staggering 78% of people mentioned our ministry to either children or young people in some way. Please continue to pray for these key aspects of our church life as we seek to make Christ Church a place where everyone can be welcomed and involved and allow all ages to hear more about Christ and experience the blessings we receive in being a part of this family.



In prioritising the development and growth of our children and young people's ministry, is the relaunch of our youth group. Christ Church Youth (CCY) are now meeting every Sunday night between 7:30pm and 8:45pm, and anyone of secondary school age is more than welcome to join us. Over the next number of weeks we'll explore the "iBelieve" course asking the question - "What is it that we say we believe in?"

Upon completion of this course in the springtime, we hope to encourage

several of our members to come forward for confirmation and choose to take on the baptism promises made by their parents on their behalf, for themselves.

Thank you to all who have helped so far in the renovation of the new Youth room (formerly known as the prayer room next to the parish office). Thank you to those who cleaned and those who cleared the space and took items to be recycled. I am filled with gratitude towards those who kindly donated new seating that is loved already, and for those who repaired electrics and helped make the space fit for purpose.

I ask that you all continue to pray for growth in this specific area of our ministry. That young people will feel safe and encouraged in this space and that the right people will come forward to offer their help and support and add to our excellent team of leaders.

Aside from your support in prayer, if you would like to offer a more practical form of support, or you would like to find out more information about our youth programme, please do contact me using my details on the back of the magazine.

Many thanks,
Gareth

Mothers' Union

Friday, 8th December
8.00 pm

'Christmas Table Decorations'

Helen Kenny



Friday, 12th January
8.00 pm

'AGM followed by Supper and a Chat'



Prayer Points for December & January

- ◆ For all leaders in our parish organisations in shaping their programmes and gathering for fellowship. Our fellowship groups in gathering around God's Word and in prayer.
- ◆ The Daily Prayer Guide to soak the parish and community in prayer.
- ◆ Generosity through the Harvest appeal for Lisburn Foodbank and missionary work and charities.
- ◆ For Bishop George in his leadership in the Diocese and especially with the recent clergy meetings on growing healthy churches. Giving thanks for his time with us at the Café Church in October.
- ◆ Our opportunities to worship during Advent, Christmas and the new year and to invite family and friends to these special services.
- ◆ The Diocese of Luwero as they have a retired bishop looking after the wellbeing of the Diocese at this time.
- ◆ For the staff of Fields of Life in Lisburn and Kampala and praying for Bridget and Rachel in their roles in schools and the community. Praying for Madame Esther as principal, the staff and pupils in this learning environment at St Apollo.
- ◆ For peace in our world especially in Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, Niger, Yemen and Sudan and all efforts to help people manage the cost of living crisis.
- ◆ The gift of technology to livestream our services on a Sunday. For all who have led worship each Sunday particularly members of the choir, praise group and men's choir under the leadership of Ross. The work of the AV team. With gratitude to all who are on the welcome team and who provide refreshments on a Sunday, on Tuesday mornings and at funerals.
- ◆ School assemblies in Central and Old Warren PS and the continuing work of TLG in Central PS with Karen and Alex.
- ◆ For our pastoral care to those who have had a bereavement, who are in hospital, undergoing treatment, waiting on an appointment, had a wedding or baptism. For the ministry of hospital chaplains. For our engagement with parishioners in nursing and residential care through our pastoral visitors and working with Eric Crangle and friends as they bring a ministry of music.
- ◆ Thankfulness for the NHS, its staff in hospitals, the community and care homes. For all who sustain our community at this time including our farmers, those in education, our emergency services, shop owners, utility suppliers and the church.
- ◆ For the work of Open Doors in supporting Christians where they are

(Prayer Points continued from previous page)

persecuted especially in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan and Nigeria at this time.

- ◆ For Bishop Aime Joseph and Mama Benigne from Gitega Diocese and Bishop Seth from Matana, Burundi.
- ◆ For governments and world leaders in shaping care for God's world in the light of the COP27 meeting in Egypt and recent disasters because of drought, floods, fires and earthquakes.
- ◆ For a breakthrough to the political stalemate in our nation especially around the latest protocol with the Windsor Framework published and the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, in order to build a community of hope and respect amidst the challenges of increasing energy, food and fuel prices alongside health and education.
- ◆ The appointment of Jon Boucher as the new Chief Constable of the PSNI.

Bible Verse of the Month

“Let my mouth be filled with your praise and with your glory all the day.”

Psalms 71: 8



Mothers' Union

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another year in Mothers' Union.

As we enter the season of Advent, I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and pray that the New Year will bring health and happiness to each and everyone.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be on Friday 12th January when we will have our AGM followed by supper and a catch-up.

With my love and Blessings to you all this Christmas time.

Valerie

Daily Bible Readings

December

Fri, 1st Dec	Psalm 147	Isaiah 24: 14-23	Matt 20: 17-28
Sat, 2nd Dec	Psalm 149	Micah 7: 11-20	Matt 20: 29-34
Sun, 3rd Dec	Psalm 80: 1-8, 18-20	Isaiah 64: 1-9	Mark 13: 24-37
Mon, 4th Dec	Psalm 122	Isaiah 2: 1-5	Matt 8: 5-13
Tues, 5th Dec	Psalm 72: 1-4, 18-19	Isaiah 11: 1-10	Luke 10: 21-24
Wed, 6th Dec	Psalm 23	Isaiah 25: 6-10a	Matt 15: 29-37
Thurs, 7th Dec	Psalm 118: 18-27a	Isaiah 26: 1-6	Matt 7: 21, 24-27
Fri, 8th Dec	Psalm 27: 1-4, 16, 17	Isaiah 29: 17-24	Matt 9: 27-31
Sat, 9th Dec	Psalm 146: 4-9	Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26	Matt 9: 35-10:1,6-8
Sun, 10th Dec	Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Mark 1: 1-8
Mon, 11th Dec	Psalm 85: 7-13	Isaiah 35: 1-10	Luke 5: 17-26
Tues, 12th Dec	Psalm 96: 1-13	Isaiah 40: 1-11	Matt 18: 12-14
Wed, 13th Dec	Psalm 103: 8-13	Isaiah 40: 25-31	Matt 18: 12-14
Thurs, 14th Dec	Psalm 145: 1, 8-13	Isaiah 41: 13-20	Matt 11: 11-15
Fri, 15th Dec	Psalm 1	Isaiah 48: 17-19	Matt 11: 16-19
Sat, 16th Dec	Psalm 80: 1-4, 18-19	2 Kings 2: 9-12	Matt 17: 10-13
Sun, 17th Dec	Psalm 126	Isaiah 61: 1-11	John 1: 6-8, 19-28
Mon, 18th Dec	Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-19	Jer 23: 5-8	Matt 1: 18-24
Tues, 19th Dec	Psalm 71: 3-8	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25	Luke 1: 5-25
Wed, 20th Dec	Psalm 24: 1-6	Isaiah 7: 10-14	Luke 1: 26-38
Thurs, 21st Dec	Psalm 33: 1-4, 11-22	Zeph 3: 14-18	Luke 1: 39-45
Fri, 22nd Dec	Psalm 113	1 Sam 1: 24-28	Luke 1: 46-56
Sat, 23rd Dec	Psalm 25: 3-9	Malachi 3: 1-6	Luke 1: 57-66
Sun, 24th Dec	Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26	2 Sam 7: 1-16	Luke 1: 26-38
Mon, 25th Dec	Psalm 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Luke 2: 1-14
Tues, 26th Dec	Psalm 119: 161-168	2 Chron 24: 20-22	Matt 10: 17-22
Wed, 27th Dec	Psalm 117	Exodus 33: 7-11a	John 21: 19b-25
Thurs, 28th Dec	Psalm 124	Jer 31: 15-17	Matt 2: 13-18
Fri, 29th Dec	Psalm 96: 1-14	1 John 2: 3-11	Luke 2: 22-35
Sat, 30th Dec	Psalm 96: 7-10	1 John 2: 12-17	Luke 2: 36-40
Sun, 31st Dec	Psalm 148	Isaiah 61: 10-62:3	Luke 2: 15-21

Daily Bible Readings

January

Mon, 1st Jan	Psalm 8	Gal 4: 4-7	Luke 2: 15-21
Tues, 2nd Jan	Psalm 98: 1-4	1 John 2: 22-28	John 1: 19-28
Wed, 3rd Jan	Psalm 98: 2-7	1 John 2: 29-3:6	John 1: 29-34
Thurs, 4th Jan	Psalm 98: 1, 8-10	1 John 3: 7-10	John 1: 35-42
Fri, 5th Jan	Psalm 100	1 John 3: 11-21	John 1: 43-51
Sat, 6th Jan	Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-15	Isaiah 60: 1-6	Matt 2: 1-12
Sun, 7th Jan	Psalm 29	Gen 1: 1-5	Mark 1: 4-11
Mon, 8th Jan	Psalm 116: 10-15	1 Sam 1: 1-8	Mark 1: 14-20
Tues, 9th Jan	Psalms 7 & 8	1 Sam 1: 9-20	Mark 1: 21-28
Wed, 10th Jan	Psalm 40: 1-4, 7-10	1 Sam 3: 1-10, 19-20	Mark 1: 29-39
Thurs, 11th Jan	Psalm 44: 10-15, 24-25	1 Sam 4: 1-11	Mark 1: 40-45
Fri, 12th Jan	Psalm 89: 15-15	1 Sam 8: 4-7, 10-22	Mark 2: 1-12
Sat, 13th Jan	Psalm 21: 1-6	1 Sam 9: 1-4, 17-19	Mark 2: 13-17
Sun, 14th Jan	Psalm 139: 1-18	1 Sam 3: 1-10	John 1: 43-51
Mon, 15th Jan	Psalm 50: 8-24	1 Sam 15: 16-23	Mark 2: 18-22
Tues, 16th Jan	Psalm 89: 19-27	1 Sam 16: 1-13	Mark 2: 23-28
Wed, 17th Jan	Psalm 144: 1-10	1 Sam 17: 32-33	Mark 3: 1-6
Thurs, 18th Jan	Psalm 56: 1-2, 8-12	1 Sam 18: 6-9; 19:1-7	Mark 3: 1-6
Fri, 19th Jan	Psalm 57	1 Sam 24: 2-20	Mark 3: 13-19
Sat, 20th Jan	Psalm 80: 1-7	2 Sam 1: 1-12	Mark 3: 20-21
Sun, 21st Jan	Psalm 62: 5-12	1 Cor 7: 29-31	Mark 1: 14-20
Mon, 22nd Jan	Psalm 89: 19-27	2 Sam 5: 1-7, 10	Mark 3: 22-30
Tues, 23rd Jan	Psalm 24: 7-10	2 Sam 6: 12b-19	Mark 3: 31-35
Wed, 24th Jan	Psalm 89: 19-27	2 Sam 7: 4-17	Mark 4: 1-20
Thurs, 25th Jan	Psalm 67	Jer 1: 4-10	Matt 19: 27-30
Fri, 26th Jan	Psalm 51: 1-9	2 Sam 11: 1-17	Mark 4: 26-34
Sat, 27th Jan	Psalm 51: 11-16	2 Sam 12: 1-25	Mark 4: 35-41
Sun, 28th Jan	Psalm 111	1 Cor 8: 1-13	Mark 1: 21-28
Mon, 29th Jan	Psalm 3	2 Sam 15: 13-34, 30; 16: 5-14	Mark 5: 1-20
Tues, 30th Jan	Psalm 86: 1-6	2 Sam 18: 9-10, 14, 14	Mark 5: 21-43
Wed, 31st Jan	Psalm 32: 1-8	2 Sam 24: 2, 9-17	Mark 6: 1-6a

Finance Update

The Select Vestry thank all parishioners for their continued generosity to the life and witness of the parish in 2023. We do encourage the use of Standing Orders in these days instead of FWO envelopes. Those that still use FWO envelopes will be given envelopes for 2024 but please note your number as it will be different from 2023.

Make Giving Easier - Set up a Standing Order for Freewill Offering!

Many parishioners have set up a Standing Order to pay in regularly to the parish and we would encourage other parishioners to use this process. If you would like to authorise your bank to pay an amount advised by you, at an interval of your choice directly into the Church Bank Account, our bank details are as follows:

Name of Bank: Danske Bank, 62-66 Bow Street, Lisburn, BT28 1YS
Sort Code: 95 03 61
Account No: 10181781
Reference: Insert your own name

Gift Aid Forms

If you are a Tax Payer and have not signed a Gift Aid Form and would like to gift aid your Freewill Offering and Harvest donations, please contact the Parish Office. Forms are also available in the Main Church Porch.

Freewill Offering Donations

Church Books will close on 31st December 2023. In order to have the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts ready for the Annual General Vestry, it is necessary that all Freewill Offering monies to be included in the Report should be received by the above date. Thank you for your co-operation.

Freewill Offering Envelopes for 2024

Freewill Offering envelopes for 2024 will be available for collection from the church hall porch from Sunday, 10th December. If collecting from the Parish Secretary, please telephone first.

Missionary Donations

The closing date for Missionary donations is 1st December 2023 to allow time to distribute funds to the various charities by 31st December 2023. Donations received after that date will be carried forward to the following year.



Conductor: Sheelagh Greer
presents
a

Christmas Concert

The Clare Choral

in
Christ Church, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn
on
Saturday, 2nd December at 7.30 pm

Tickets:- Suggested donation - £10.00
available from Christ Church Parish Office or telephone Valerie Christy
on 07748677223 . Alternatively pay at the door.

Proceeds in aid of Christ Church Development Fund

Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC101245



Lisburn Police Community Carol Service

Monday, 11th December
at 11.00 am in Christ Church

All parishioners welcome to this Service

Refreshments will be served in the Hall
afterwards

Sunday School Nativity

Sunday, 17th December
at 11.30am

Young people's participation in
nativity play, readings, music and
song



Christmas Carol Service

Sunday, 17th December at 6.30pm
Carols and Special Anthems
Come, everyone, join the praise

Refreshments and
Mince Pies
afterwards



Christmas Day (25th December)

8.30 am

Christmas Communion with Hymns

10.30 am

All Family Worship for Christmas Day
Taking Part: Praise Group and Men's Choir

Children can bring a toy along to this Service





Christ Church Christmas Tree Bauble

Hi folks, this year as normal, we are running our Christmas bauble campaign and we are hoping lots of people will take us up and save money on postage etc

I know it's early but maybe you would like to think about purchasing a bauble in memory of a "loved one" who has passed away this year. This is a lovely way to remember someone very close to you and at a special time of the year or simply say Happy Christmas to everyone in the Church family.

All messages will be displayed on the screen for the congregation to see.

You can, if you wish, have your usual message. **However, please feel free to add your own special words.**

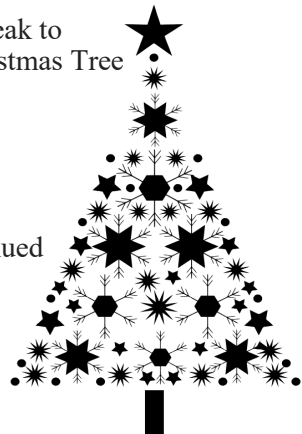
Three ways to submit your message:-

1. By text to myself on 07753825210.
2. There will be a Christmas box in the church porch. Please put your **DONATION** in a **PROVIDED BROWN SEALED ENVELOPE** available from the Sound Desk, main church porch, coffee bar or the Parish Office. Remember, **DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME, CONTACT NUMBER AND A SHORT MESSAGE** on the back or inside.
3. Simply call into the Parish Office and speak to Iris who will help you regarding the Christmas Tree Bauble.

Minimum donation - £5
Organisations - £10

Once again, thank you everyone for your continued support for St Apollo School.

Richard and Janice



**You're invited
to**



Christ Church Halls, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn

Christmas Messy Church

Sunday, 3rd December 2023

at

4.00 pm

in

Christ Church Halls



Free fun for all the family

Please book by Thursday, 30th November by emailing:
christchurchparishlisburn@gmail.com or telephone the Parish
Office on 028 9267 3271

A Big Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who so generously donated money to the Sponsorship Appeal for St Apollo School, Uganda. A total of £556.50 was gratefully accepted. Once again our caring Heavenly Father provides.

God's Blessings
Alex

For Unto Us A Child Is Born

Whenever we reflect on the recent hostilities around our world; it seems that peace is in very short supply. War in the Ukraine, the Middle East, riots on our city streets, and much conflict within some family homes. The good news in all of this is that the God whom we worship has a plan. That plan was foretold long before it happened.

The words of Isaiah:-

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the Government shall be upon His shoulders, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, Everlasting Father, The Prince Of Peace.”

We gather at this Christmas Season to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Since He was born over 2000 years ago, He has lifted so many from the pits of despair and brought them to a place of peace.

This child that was born grew to be a man that healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and caused the dead to rise. This child that was born was worshipped while in a manger, grew into a man, He died on The Cross, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven to be with The Father, and is still worshipped today by billions of people.

At this Blessed Christmas time, we must all accept Christ for who He truly is. As Christians who are part of our wonderful Church Family, let us join together as we celebrate the birth of this child, the one whom this season is all about. As we journey towards 2024, reach out and take The Hand Of Jesus, after all, He is Our Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, and The Prince Of Peace. ✨

May everyone who reads this article have a Blessed Christmas.

*Wesley Dickinson
(Prayer Fellowship)*



Lisburn Foodbank

Thank you to all who gave gifts for the Lisburn Foodbank at the Harvest Thanksgiving Services. The total weight of the items was **96.4 kgs**. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated by the Lisburn Foodbank.

Connor Takes The Castle

Friday, 6th October -
Sunday, 8th October
at Castlewellan



Old Warren Primary School



Above: Old Warren Primary School Choir entertained everyone at the Tuesday Applefest Coffee Morning in Christ Church Halls on 3rd October.

Below: Archdeacon Paul Dundas and Rev Gareth Campbell at Old Warren Primary School's Harvest Assembly recently.
Children brought in items for the Lisburn Foodbank





CL&CGB 130th Anniversary Regimental Service

Sunday, 1st October in Christ Church

Included in the front row are Rev Paul McAdam (Regimental Chaplain), Bishop George Davison, Andrew Hayday (Brigade Governor), Archbishop John McDowell (Brigade Vice President), John Williams (Regimental Commander), Perry Gunn (CLCGB National Co-Ordinator), Archdeacon Paul Dundas and Rev Gareth Campbell

Christ Church Bowling Club

Monday, 6th November





Café Church

with
Bishop George Davison
on
Sunday, 15th October



You are invited to
a
**Marie Curie
Coffee Morning**

on
Tuesday, 5th December
in
Christ Church Hall
from
10 am - 12 noon



Everyone welcome



Care and support
through terminal illness

Acorn Club

The Acorn Club having coffee at the Haslem Hotel
on Thursday, 2nd November



Acorn Club (for Seniors)

Thursday, 7th December
2.30 pm

'Christmas Party'



Thursday, 1st February
2.30 pm

Speaker:

Rev John Pickering

'The Media'



Everyone welcome

Come, be an Acorn and see the oak tree grow.

A couple travel to visit their son and his family for Christmas. Grandpa sees a beautiful nativity set in their house. He asks his little granddaughter if she knows what it is.

She replies, "Yes...it's breakable."



GFS

GFS recommenced on Wednesday 11th September with our Registration Night. It was great to see the girls and their parents again!

We have been busy each Wednesday night with a variety of crafts and games. The girls have also been decorating biscuits and apples with chocolate, marshmallows and



sprinkles - yum yum!

During October we had a visit from the local St. John's Ambulance branch. The younger girls were shown how to care for a cut on an arm and apply a sling - they had great fun practising on each other! The older girls had CPR training - a very important life skill to learn.

In the New Year we will be having a visit



(GFS continued)

from the
Guide
Dogs
Northern
Ireland.

We wish
everyone a
happy and
blessed
Christmas
and New Year!

GFS Leaders



Craft Club

Helen
making the tea



Verity
is out washer up

Ashleigh Long from Almost
Home Animal Rescue NI
receiving dog beds from
Linda, Vera and Helen





Ladies
knitting for
Baby
Basics and
the
Homeless
and
blankets
for
Nursing
Homes

A big thank you to everyone. A warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to join us on a Wednesday morning.

Wishing our members many blessings and a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ann

The Sanctuary Course

I recently had the privilege to attend The Sanctuary Course – ‘Mental Health and Faith’ which was hosted by Church’s Ministry of Healing at their headquarters in Knockbreda. The course was over 8 weeks. The Rector, Wesley, Beth and myself joined 8 other like minded people. After a welcome cup of coffee, each session started with prayer followed by a verse from Psalm 42. Psalm 42 is a lament. It contains both the raw and desperate prayers of those who are suffering and the confident proclamation of hope in God’s goodness.

Each session started with a video emphasising a different aspect of the reality of living with mental health challenges, for example, anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, post – traumatic stress disorder and eating disorders. After the video, we had 20-30 minutes when we all had a chance to discuss the related topic.

We also talked about the importance of looking after our own mental health. Everyone has mental health but not everyone receives a diagnosis of mental illness as a recognised condition that affects thoughts and behaviour.

You don’t have to be a mental health professional to support and be a companion to someone with mental health challenges. It is important to have a listening ear, be there to support them and not to be judgemental. Let the person talk freely and don’t be afraid of silences. We are there to come alongside the person on their journey.

If you have the opportunity to attend the Sanctuary Course, please do so and expand your knowledge of Mental Health, Mental Illness and Faith.

Psalm 42.v.5.

Why my soul are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

For I will yet praise him,

My Saviour and my God.

Roberta

CMS Conference

On Saturday 23rd September, Rev John Pickering and myself attended The C.M.S. Conference at Dromantine Retreat. The guest speaker was The Bishop of Shyogwe Diocese, Rwanda, The Rt Rev Dr Kalimba Jered.

After we sang three or four lively Christian songs, the Bishop addressed the people gathered. He spoke slowly in broken English and I here write his exact words as spoken.

We have 40 Parishes and we want the Church to grow in quality and quantity. We must find a new strategy on how we teach our people. Some people just come to Church to see around them and watch other people. Amongst my people The Bible is life, it is so important that The Bible is in the family. The Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path. The Bible must always dwell in our families.

At our Prayer meetings, they Pray for everything, they even Pray for the dog. How can The Word Of God come and meet families? In my country the genocide killed over one million of our people. The family is so important to the people of our Church.

In Rwanda we had the genocide, but today we have reconciliation. We have the victims and the perpetrators of that genocide. Now, we bring them all together and we Pray together in The Church, remember that we must have forgiveness. Joseph forgave his brothers who sold him into slavery.

God is not stupid, is He asking you to do something? If He has chosen you, make sure that you do it. Many of you have talents to offer The Church, so use your talents for your Church and do it together as the family of The Church. May God bless you all, Amen.

*Wesley Dickinson
Prayer Fellowship*

Rev John Pickering and Wesley met up with The Rev Dr Kalimba Jered, Bishop of Shyogwe Diocese, Rwanda at The C.M.S. Conference at Dromantine Retreat on the 23rd September.





Messy Church

Harvest Messy Church took place on Sunday, 24th September in the Church Halls



Christmas Messy Church will take place on Sunday 3rd December at 4.00 pm in the church Halls and everyone is welcome to join us.



(Messy Church continued)



**Jim
Anderson**
celebrated his
**100th
Birthday**
on
Wednesday,
15th November
2023

Jim with his
daughters
Rosemary and
Elizabeth,
Archdeacon Paul
Dundas and Bishop
George Davison



Christ Church Decorated For Harvest



*(Christ Church decorated
for Harvest continued)*



Christmas Toy Scheme

The Pre-Loved Christmas Toy Scheme is Back

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have partnered with Habitat for Humanity for the second year to help families in Lisburn and Castlereagh get quality affordable toys for their children this Christmas.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is amazed by the level of community support for the project last year and are hoping to repeat that success this year, with the generous help of residents.

Christmas Toy Shop

Habitat ReStore, Lisburn

Open

15th November - 18th December

Monday - Saturday from 9.30 am - 5.00 pm

Pop-Up Toy Shops from 10 am - 2 pm

Ballyoran Community Centre - 29th November

Maghaberry Community Centre - 6th December

Lough Moss Leisure Centre - 12th December

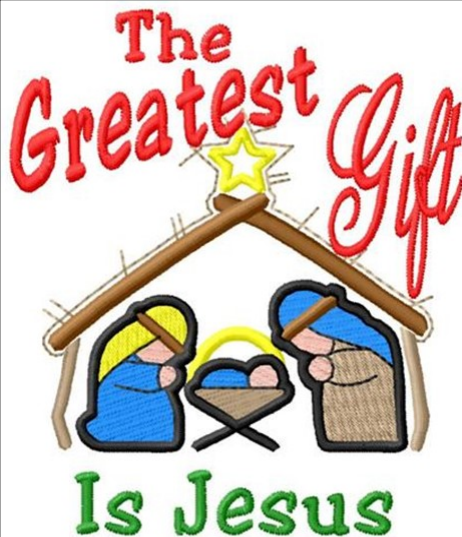
Giving pre-loved toys a second chance



A Prayer About The True Gift of Christmas

The gifts I'd leave beneath your tree,
Aren't those that you can touch or see,
No toys meant just for pointless play,
But gifts to bless you every day.
The gift of friendship warm and true,
Is one that I would leave for you.
Good health and happiness and cheer
To keep you smiling through the year.
The gift of peace that comes from God,
With prayer to guide each path you trod.
And when your heart has lost its song,
The gift of hope to cheer you on.
These are the gifts I'd leave for you.

Kay Hoffman



The Silver Star

I gazed in awe at the silver star
For I had travelled from afar,
To see the spot where Christ
was born
On that first cold dark
Christmas morn.
I thought of Mary, his mother
mild
and the love she felt for her little
child.
I thought of the shepherds and
the three wise men
who hurried along to
Bethlehem.
I gazed at the silver star and
smiled,
I too had met the Holy Child.

Maisie Reid

Christmas Crackers !!

One Christmas eve, Pete and Jane were driving their Russian friend Rudolph back to his house. The weather outside was frightful. Jane asked Pete, "Do you think that's sleet or rain out there?" "It's rain, Jane" said Pete. "I think it's sleet, Pete," said Jane. Rudolph chimed in, "It's definitely rain, Jane." "No, I really think it's sleet, Rudolph" said Jane. "Don't argue with the expert, Jane," said Pete. "What do you mean, Pete?" asked Jane. Pete replied, "Rudolph the Red knows rain, Dear."

Santa's Prayer

My dear precious Jesus, I did not mean to take your place,
I only bring toys and things and you bring love and grace.
People give me lists of wishes and hope that they came true;
But you hear prayers of the heart and promise your will to do.
Children try to be good and not to cry when I am coming to town;
But you love them unconditionally and that love will abound.
I leave only a bag of toys and temporary joy for a season;
But you leave a heart of love, full of purpose and reasons.
I have a lot of believers and what one might call fame;
But I never healed the blind or tried to help the lame.
I have rosy cheeks and a voice full of laughter;
But no nail - scarred hands or a promise of the hereafter.
You may find several of me in town or at a mall;
But there is only one omnipotent you, to answer a sinner's call.
And so, my dear precious Jesus, I kneel here to pray;
To worship and adore you on this, your holy birthday.

Happy New Year

Throughout the New Year, and each step of the way,
May Christ be your portion, your joy and your stay.
With God's precious precepts, your daily delight
To lead and encourage in paths that are right.

"The Lord is my Shepherd," how precious the word!
He'll lead in green pastures, His promise is heard.
"Beside the still waters" - what comfort and rest!
What peace there is found upon Jesus' breast.

His "goodness and mercy," each day may you prove,
His comforting presence, His infinite love!
With richest compassions, each morning anew,
May multiplied mercies be showered on you!

"My cup runneth over," His grace so abounds,
That fullest enjoyment in Jesus is found.
"The Lord is my portion," this may your soul say,
And you will be happy each step of the way.

Lois Beckwith



supporting blind and
partially sighted people

Save Used Postage Stamps for the Royal National Institute of Blind People

Just a reminder that Christ Church continues to collect used stamps. As the Leprosy Mission no longer accept used postage stamps, we are now sending them to the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People).

Please remember to save all the used postage stamps from the Christmas cards you'll all be receiving over the next few weeks.

Save Used Ink Cartridges for the Leprosy Mission



We continue to collect used cubed ink cartridges for the Leprosy Mission. If you have any used cubed ink cartridges that you would like to donate to the Leprosy Mission, please place them in the box in the main church porch. Alternatively you can leave them in the church hall porch in the box under the notice board.

Thank you to all who collected stamps and ink cartridges during 2023.



Car Park Spaces for Rental

There are currently a few car park spaces for rental during the week on Church Lane, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn (behind the Church Rectory).

If you would like to rent a space, please telephone Ivan on **077 599 129 29**

Christ Church Car Park

(Behind Church Rectory on Church Lane, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn)

Any member of the public can park their car in Christ Church Car Park on Saturdays all day for **just £1**. Just drive up to the barrier and put a £1 coin in the coin slot and the barrier will rise automatically.





Lisburn Community Dementia Care for people with dementia and their carers/family members

3rd Thursday of every month
from 1 pm - 3 pm
Christ Church Halls, Hillsborough Road, Lisburn

Thursday, 21st December

Christmas Party



Thursday, 18th January

Fitness after Christmas with **Sandra**

Please book with Maureen on 07867525453
New members welcome

Flower Rota

03 Dec Kitty Anderson & Eileen Boyle
10 Dec The Brackenridge Family
17 Dec Rosalynd Anderson (*table*)
Valerie & George Christy (*pedestals*)
24 Dec Vacant
31 Dec Vacant
07 Jan Vacant
14 Jan Vacant
21 Jan Bertha & Michael Thompson
28 Jan Vacant



Christ Church Sunday Services

Morning Worship

11.30 am

Evening Prayer

(3rd Sunday)

6.30 pm

Holy Communion

1st Sunday at 8.30 am

4th Sunday at 11.30 am

All Age Worship

3rd Sunday at 11.30 am

Marriage & Holy Baptism

By arrangement with the Rector

Sunday School (KLIC & JAM)

All families to All Age Worship
on

3rd Sunday at 11.30 am

1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday - 11.30 am during worship

Note From The Editor

All material for the February issue **MUST** be in the
Parish Office by

Monday, 15th January

Parish Office Opening Hours

Tues - Thurs 9.00 am - 3.00 pm

Mon & Fri Closed

Church Panel Safeguarding Trust

Archdeacon

Paul Dundas

Tel 07740589465

Robin Smythe

Tel 07521159350

Beverley Ringland Tel 07734877740

Sunday Coffee Rota

Co-ordinator: Florence Crangle - Tel: 028 9210 7433

03 Dec	Billy & Beth Harris
10 Dec	Jim & Barbara Watson
17 Dec	Robin & Sheila Smythe
24 Dec	Florence Crangle & Oonagh Soden
31 Dec	No Coffee
07 Jan	Ann Reynolds & Oonagh Soden
14 Jan	Stevie & Rosie Long
21 Jan	David & Jennifer Henry & Shirley Hanna
28 Jan	Jane Hawthorne & Emma Jane Marks

Tuesday Coffee Rota

Co-ordinator: Ann Robinson - Tel: 07901236346

05 Dec	Vera Hewitt, Laureen Birrell, Lottie Millar
12 Dec	Roberta Thompson, Rosemary Bodell, Annie Stevenson
19 Dec	Valerie Christy, Pauline Graham, Lynda Lashford
26 Dec	NO COFFEE MORNING
02 Jan	NO COFFEE MORNING
09 Jan	Lynn Shanks, Oonagh Soden, Thelma Rutledge
16 Jan	Evelyn Greer, Beth Harris, Betty Cummings, Margaret Walker
23 Jan	Myrtle Watterson, Colleen Watterson, Florence Young
30 Jan	Gwen Gibson, Evelyn Macklin, Roberta Rosbotham
06 Feb	Helen Dickinson, Roberta Doherty, Dorothy Morrow

Welcoming Rota

If unable to do door duty, please swap with someone else on the Rota.

	<u>East & Nicholson Door</u>	<u>Baptismal Door</u>
03 Dec	Pamela Trimble	Anne Reynolds
10 Dec	Stephen McKenna	Lewis Grant
17 Dec	David Henry	Ashleigh Long
17 Dec	Rosie Long (6.30 pm)	Stephen Long (6.30 pm)
24 Dec	Beth Harris	Billy Harris
24 Dec	Church Wardens (Main Porch)	
31 Dec	George Megarry	Annette Megarry
31 Dec	Church Wardens (Main Porch)	
07 Jan	Laureen Birrell	Lottie Millar
14 Jan	Laureen Birrell	Lottie Millar
21 Jan	Richard Irvine	Heather Gibson
21 Jan	Wendy Bell (6.30 pm)	Andrew Bell (6.30 pm)
28 Jan	Wendy Bell	Andrew Bell

Church Organisations

SUNDAY

Sunday School **KLIC**

Mrs Bertha Thompson
c/o Parish Office Tel: **9267 3271**
3rd Sunday - Church Service - 11.30 am
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sunday during 11.30 am
Worship

JAM Group

Mrs Beverley Ringland
c/o Parish Office Tel: **9267 3271**

CCY

c/o Rev Gareth Campbell Tel: **07842070108**
7.30 pm - 8.45 pm

MONDAY

Indoor Bowls

7.30 pm
Mr Johnston Boyle Tel: **07802889412**

Guides

Mrs Elisabeth Dougherty
c/o Parish Office Tel: **9267 3271**

Senior Section

(10 - 15 years) 7.30 pm

TUESDAY

Badminton

Mr Garth Anderson 7.30 pm Tel: **9243 8971**

Teaching Series

Archdeacon Paul Dundas 7.30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Tots Together

(Parent and Toddler Group)
Mrs Rosie Long Tel: **07909915909**
10.00 am - 11.30 am

Craft Club

10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Mrs Ann Elliott Tel: **07815743795**

Prayer Fellowship

Mr Wesley Dickinson 7.30 pm
Tel: **07918672467** or **9262 2021**

Missionary Prayer Fellowship

Mr Wesley Dickinson 7.30 pm Tel: **9262 2021**
(4th Wednesday Monthly)

WEDNESDAY

(continued)

Girls Friendly Society

Mrs Rosie Long	Tel: 07909915909
Teddy Bears 3-5 years	6.45 pm
Candidates 5-7 years	6.45 pm
Junior Members 7-11 years	6.45 pm
Members 11-15 years	6.45 pm

Walking Group

Mr & Mrs David Henry	Tel: 9266 6223
(Meet at Smithfield Square Car Park for a walk and a coffee at The Haslem Hotel)	Tel: 07712839625
	7.00 pm

THURSDAY

The Ladybirds (Women's Bible Study Group)

(2nd & 4th Thursday monthly)	11.00 am
------------------------------	----------

<u>Acorn Club</u> Mrs Margaret Little	Tel: 9267 1119
<u>(For Senior</u> (1st Thursday monthly)	2.30 pm
<u>Citizens)</u>	

<u>CLB</u> Mr Tommy Ringland	Tel: 9263 8252
(4 - 11 years)	6.45 pm

<u>Choir</u> Mrs Gwen Gibson	7.30 pm Tel: 9260 1625
-------------------------------------	------------------------

FRIDAY

Mothers' Union

Mrs Valerie Christy	Tel: 9268 3590
(2nd Friday Monthly)	

SATURDAY

Hill Walking Club

(2nd Saturday Monthly)

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from
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Everyone welcome



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Street, Lisburn
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WHO'S WHO IN CHRIST CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

Rector:

The Venerable Paul Dundas, Archdeacon of Dalriada

Christ Church Rectory,
27 Hillsborough Road, Lisburn, BT28 1JL
Telephone Number: 028 9266 2163
Mobile Number: 07740589465
Email address: paul_dundas@yahoo.com

Curate: Rev Gareth Campbell

Tel: 07842070108
garethcampbell211@gmail.com

Senior Minister: Rev John Pickering

Tel: 07752339558

Parish Reader: Tim Littler

Tel: 07803038068

People's Church Warden: Vera Hewitt

Tel: 07719406775

Rector's Church Warden: Alex Henderson

Tel: 07594988793

Honorary Secretary: Stephen Long

Tel: 07306114277

Honorary Treasurer: David Bodell

Tel: 07872555394

Organist: Ross Morrow Tel: 07788746992 or 028 9268 9468

Sexton: Neil Ritchie

Tel: 07907357666

Church Email Address: christchurchparishlisburn@gmail.com

Parish Office (Parish Secretary - Iris Murphy) Tel: 028 92673271

Parish Office Opening Hours Tues - Thurs (9 am - 3 pm)