

Saintfield Parish
welcomes you to a

Hidden Christmas

Welcome

Dear Friends

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

Things being hidden at Christmas is something we all do. Chocolate is hidden behind Advent Calendar windows, cards are hidden in envelopes, presents behind wrapping paper, decorations in Christmas Trees behind lights, tinsel and new ornaments.

There is a 'hiddenness' of sorts at Christmas, that is quite unique and adds to our lives. It can heighten expectations of being surprised on December 25th (if you are under the age of 14) or if older, enjoying the recreating of Christmas through unpacking again of our Christmas family story through photos, videos, cine film as well as particular traditions. Christmas connects us to what was given to us in the past and from those who are now 'hidden' from us at least on earth.

Christmas will also hide other things and people that we might feel can take away from our Christmas expectations. The reality of poverty, hunger, homelessness, being refugees is hidden in a darkness as Christmas can dull our compassion and generosity.

Christmas can also hide its true message and meaning behind and beyond our Church worship, candles and carols.

Somehow Christ can become less to us, as we celebrate the king of the nativity, but the king of the cross remains hidden from our soul and our need of God's great gift of his salvation. Somehow Christ can seem dimmer at Christmas when seen through the glare of all the other lights that we use to lighten up our own Christmas.

This Advent, we are going to re-discover what might seem hidden or dim to in the darkness. We are asking God to shine his light into: our hidden memories to see his hope; the hidden miracle of Jesus being born in us; our hidden moves as we change direction and destination; the hidden mystery of Jesus rather than the unhidden magic of St Nick, so this Christmas Day in the hidden mess of it all, the mess-age of God shines on us, into us and through us. A gift for our life and for our death that only our God can give. So...Don't hide from Church this Advent and Christmas. Come along and let Jesus Shine and he will in his love and power.

Christmas Peace

Chris, Wenda, Beth, Lucy & Harry

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Bishop Elect:

Ven David McClay

It was announced today that the Episcopal Electoral College for the Diocese of Down and Dromore, meeting in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, has elected Archdeacon David McClay as the new Bishop of Down and Dromore. He succeeds the Rt Revd Harold Miller who retired at the end of September.

The Venerable David McClay is Archdeacon of Down and Rector of Willowfield Parish Church, in East Belfast. He was previously Rector of Kilkeel and has served his whole ordained ministry to date in the Diocese of Down and Dromore.

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Christmas Eve
11.00pm Candlelit Communion
Hidden Mystery

Christmas Day
8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship
Hidden Mess

Advent Sundays

Dec 1 Hidden memories 10.30am

Dec 8 Hidden miracle 10.30am

Dec 8 Blue Christmas

(Service for bereaved) 7.00pm

Dec 15 Hidden moves (SPACE) 10.30am

Dec 22 Carols, Candles & Christmas 7.00pm



Help the tree shine in remembrance of your loved one by hanging a star that is symbolic of their life, or one that represents a special memory.

During the Street Fair through to Christmas Day, please come into the Parish Church and use the stars provided to write a message or a name and hang on the Christmas Tree.

This is open to everyone in the community. Children are welcome to come and participate with their memories.

A 'Blue Christmas' Service for the bereaved' will be in Church Sunday December 8th @ 7.00pm



Every year we have a Sit Out on the day of the Street Fair, to raise money for a local Charity.

This year, Ian, William and Chris will be raising money for Dementia NI who support those who are affected by Dementia and those who support and care for them.

You are welcome to join us at any time as we collect on the street and from cars.



SPACE
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH
10.30AM



Church Flowers

December

1 In memory of
Canon & Mrs Woodrow

8 June Butler

8 Rachael Lowry

15 Pamela Dooley

22 Christmas

Happy Engagement to

**Danielle Hill
& Karl**

**Hannah McGowan
& Ross**

**Ian McGowan
& Kathryn**

Some News



A dementia support group is working in partnership with the Parish to offer encouragement, pointers, information and advice for all affected by dementia.

It is cross community and will meet on every last Tuesday of each month. Please let folk know about it and there is no charge to anyone.



This is a Fund created by Sir George Clark in the 1980's.

It encourages people who are involved in music offering some assistance towards Music Tuition fees. The group who administer this Fund, Caroline Kearney, Jean Perrin & Craig McCarter meet twice a year and consider all applications. The Fund is primarily for Parish membership and is capped to a certain amount of funding. If you have receipts from Jan 1 2019 to Dec 31 2019, please ask for an application form from Sally Milligan in the Church office, fill out and drop back on. Many Thanks.



This year has been a BIG year for the parish with HALL 4 ALL Fundraising as well as maintaining our FWO. The parish has been brilliant in supporting the ministry of the Church and we are currently balancing our books. THANK YOU!!!! for everything you have given.

Three considerations:

1. We need to have all FWO 2019 into the Church Office by Monday January 7th 2020. This will close off the 2019 Accounts.
2. We want more folk to move from 'envelopes' towards Standing Orders. It helps us immensely in our administration and allows money to regularly come in throughout the year. We no longer issue envelopes to new members joining the Parish and would like to cut down next year the cost involved in buying them. Weddings and Baptisms are available for registered Church Members over the age of 21 who are asked to subscribe.
3. The Vestry is considering its budget for next year and if there are needs that you believe need addressed, please contact us through Stephen Erskine (Hon. Sec). Thanks

Advent Challenge: Luke's Gospel = 24 Chapters.

1 chapter a day Dec 1 - Christmas Eve. See FB Page

December Diary 2019

Upper Area= UA. Woodrow Room =WR

1 Sunday Advent 1

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion
Hidden Memories

2 Monday

9.30am Pitter Patter (Toddlers group)
6.30pm Rainbows,
7.00pm Brownies 7.30pm Guides

3 Tuesday

5.30pm & 7.30pm Slimming World (UA)
7.30pm Bowling Club Parish hall

4 Wednesday

8.00pm Badminton Club
8.00pm Women's institute (WR)

5 Thursday

6.00pm Men's Football (Loughmoss)
6.30pm Beavers
7.00pm Cubs 7.30m Scouts
7.30pm Mothers' Union (WR)
Christmas Dinner

6 Friday

Christmas Street Fair 6.30-9.00pm
Tree of Remembrance (IN Church)
Sit Out for Dementia NI
10.00AM – 10.00PM Main Street

7 Saturday SPY +

Saturday Night Live Moira 6.45PM

8 Sunday Advent 2

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
Hidden Miracle

7.00pm. Blue Christmas
(Service for bereaved)

9 Monday

9.30am Pitter Patter (Toddlers group)
6.30pm Rainbows,
7.00pm Brownies 7.30pm Guides

10 Tuesday

5.30pm & 7.30pm Slimming World (UA)
7.30pm Bowling Club

11 Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion
12.00 Christmas lunch
8.00pm Badminton Club

12 Thursday

6.00pm Men's Football (Loughmoss)
6.30pm Beavers
7.00pm Cubs 7.30m Scouts
7.30pm Xplore Home group

13 Friday

7.00pm SPY Youth Club Outing

15 Sunday Advent 3

8.30am Holy Communion (Church)
10.30am SPACE (Parish Hall)
Hidden Christmas: Hidden Moves

16 Monday

9.30am Pitter Patter (Toddlers group)
6.30pm Rainbows,
7.00pm Brownies 7.30pm Guides

17 Tuesday

5.30pm & 7.30pm Slimming World (UA)
7.30pm Bowling Club

18 Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion
8.00pm Badminton Club

19 Thursday

6.00pm Men's Football (Loughmoss)
6.30pm Beavers
7.00pm Cubs 7.30m Scouts

22 Sunday Advent 4

8.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship 2

7.00pm Carols by candlelight
Carols, candles and Christmas

8.30 SPY + Chinese night

23 Monday

5.30pm & 7.30pm Slimming World (UA)

24 Tuesday Christmas Eve

11.00pm Christmas Eve Communion
Carols & Candles Hidden Mystery

25 Wednesday Christmas Day

8.30am Holy Communion

10.30am All Together Worship.
Hidden Mess

29 Sunday Christmas 1

10.30am Morning Prayer (BCP 1)

Quick Contacts

Vicar

Rev Chris Pollock 07519668747
Chris.pollock3@btinternet.com

Parish Office (43 Main Street)

Sally Milligan 028 97 519653
Tuesday - Friday 9.00am-2pm (Ex hols)

Sexton

Ian Gordon 07710464632

Sunday

Church Wardens
William Drury 07720883993
Linda Bloomer 07801926869
Denis Matchett (8.30am). 07761855215

Music

Leader Craig McCarter 07731541522
Organist Michael Harris 028 97511345

Sunday Club/ Creche Pre's – Year 7 10.30am
Come to Church first please except first
Sunday of Month at Communion where
everyone goes to hall first.

Sunday Night SPY+

Wenda Pollock 07917230631

Monday

Pitter Patter Sarah McCarter 07790435329
Rainbows Natasha Wade 07513823629
Brownies Jill Shaw-O'Doherty 02897 511135
Guides Barbara Fleet 07909 917494

Tuesday

Bowls Myrtle Drury 028 97563122

Wednesday

Wednesday Welcome Sally 028 97519653
Badminton William Drury 07720 883993

Thursday

Men's Football Ian Logan 07428168838
Scouting Jo Burridge 07500931998
gsl.1saintfield@countydownscouts.org.uk

Mothers' Union
Marion Edwards 07989403455

Xplore Life group (Book of Daniel)
Alison Logan. 02890 963110

Friday

Youth Club Sally Milligan 028 97 519653

Safeguarding Trust

Kate Beattie 07703258228

Vestry

Hon. Secretary Stephen Erskine
s_erskine55@hotmail.com 028 97511310

Hon. Treasurer Caroline Kearney
02897511028

