

# St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's New Year News January 2026



## Hoping for a good 2026?

We hope you are optimistic as we start 2026. It isn't always easy to be positive. But **there is hope** to be found.

Around us in distant parts of the world are situations where hope seems as far away as ever. *Talk* and *promises* of peace are rarely followed by any deep and lasting change in the affected communities' lives. We wish the negotiators all the best, but if they disregard truth and justice, or reward acts of violence in their proposals, then they offer little true hope.

Have you ever been asked about *resolutions* as the New Year begins? Of course you have! You know that most of your personal promises are going to fail within about three weeks. There is not much hope if we rely on our own willpower, certainly not going by our previous failures.

Of course there is always *money*, that's something we can always rely on, isn't it? I mean we are never going to run out of cash, lose a job, suffer an illness needing emergency, sometimes private treatment, are we? And there is always the bank of mum and dad - if they too are fit and financially healthy!

Where is true hope to be found?

The good news is that God delivers hope.

- He didn't just talk about peace, he sent his Son, Jesus, to give his life to bring us peace: sins forgiven, heaven assured.
- He didn't just boast about what he might do for us. Rather, Jesus entered human life as a baby, overcame the weaknesses of our nature, and formed a community of which we can be a part.
- He didn't hold on to his riches but set aside the glories of heaven to be with us, die for us, and rise again.

Hold on to these God-given hopes as you face the challenges in 2026, perhaps echoing the words of the anxious father in Mark 9:24: **"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."**

*Thy thankful people praise thee, Lord, for countless gifts received,  
and pray for grace to keep the faith which saints of old believed.*

**Have a Happy and Hope-filled New Year, with the Christ as your Guide.**

*From the church family at St Patrick's and St Andrew's*

## Sunday Prayer before Worship

What better way to settle ourselves before the Sunday morning service than to take 10 minutes in stillness and prayer! You are welcome to join us in the Side Chapel from around 9.40 am so please feel free to slip in during that time. We will aim to be in our seats by 9.55 pm.

Thank you.

## Parish Prayers

**Parish Prayers resume on  
6 January 2026  
in St. Andrew's, Ballysally, at 7.00 pm  
please join us, everyone welcome.**



## Wednesday Communion

Our weekly Communion service in St Patrick's takes place, God-willing, each Wednesday at 1.00 pm. After the short Christmas break it will resume on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January. The service lasts for around 30 minutes.

## Prayer Corner



As you may know, there is a Prayer Corner at the front of St Patrick's on your right. This is a place where you can pray on your own or you can leave a request for either a loved one, or for yourself. There is paper to write on and a basket to leave your request.

These requests are regularly used by others to ask the Lord to bless and heal the people named. Please make use of this opportunity to pray for yourself - and for anyone known to you who is in need. Even if you don't have a request, please pray for those who do. The Lord hears when we call on His name.



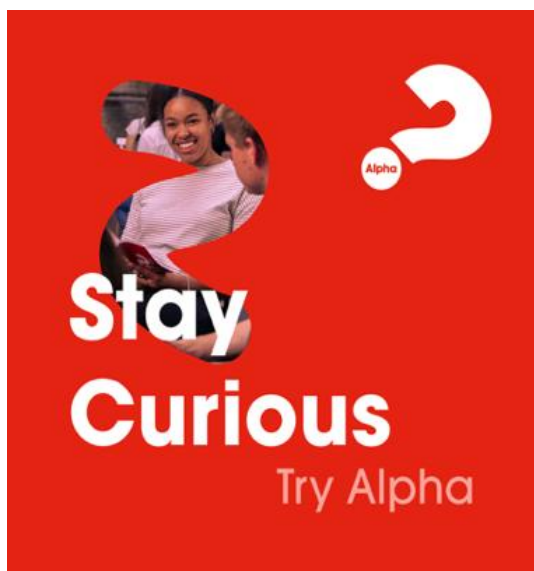
## Looking Back: Sunday Bible Lessons in Advent



For three Sunday evenings in St. Patrick's Dr. Walter McConnell conducted a series of lessons about Advent.

Walter taught how the coming of Jesus made it possible for all people to worship God rightly and we learnt how to be filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Finally, the second coming of Jesus shows us how he will restore his people and the world so that they will achieve what they were created to be and do.

## Looking Forward:



You are warmly invited to a short film & small group discussion exploring life, faith and meaning in a friendly, relaxed, cross-community setting.

**Tuesdays 7-9pm  
from 13 January 2026**

in

**Bushtown Hotel,  
283 Drumcroon Rd,  
Coleraine BT51 3QT**

***Further information:***

**[Alphanorthcoast@gmail.com](mailto:Alphanorthcoast@gmail.com) or Telephone: 077 6064 7665**

# Mothers' UNION

At our December meeting we handed over gifts to Women's Aid, celebrated with



Rhoda soon to celebrate her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday, made artistic Christmas decorations, and finished off with carols and mince pies.



What a night! JOIN US, JOIN IN



There will be no monthly meeting in January.

Mothers' Union, in memory of the late Mrs. Violet McCandless, has contributed towards the restoration of the prayer room window in St Patrick's.

Bishop George Davison will dedicate the window at the all-age family service on Sunday 18th January 2026 at 11.00 am

This is a **united service** for both St Andrew's & St Patrick's.

# New Year Prayer Pointers

*But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord,  
I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me. (Micah 7:7 NIV)*

## For Ourselves

Ask God to help us as individuals and as churches to focus our lives on Jesus, that we may use the new year as an opportunity for a fresh start, and a time to turn from reliance on worthless things in the knowledge that...

*...‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me’.*

Ask God for wisdom and discernment and thank him that ‘his mercies are new every morning’.

## For our Parish

Give thanks for the clergy, vestry, children’s and youth leaders and the many volunteers who enable our church life to continue and thrive. Pray for God’s guidance for those making decisions about St Patrick’s and St Andrew’s. Ask God to bless those in our church family who are struggling with health, finance or relationship problems. Remember those who are grieving, lonely or facing new challenges.

## For our Community

- Pray for our schoolteachers and pupils that they would know God’s help and guidance in daily life.
- Remember, also, those who serve the community in our hospital and medical centres. May God renew their strength and encourage them. Pray for God’s guidance as they seek to have good management and wise use of resources.
- Ask God to help and protect our police and rescue services.
- Pray that local businesses would reflect Christian values and prosper.
- Thank God for the opportunity to share through Foodbank.
- Pray for job opportunities for those in need of employment.
- Ask God to help us be salt and light in our Community.

## For our World

*The Lamb will overcome them because he is the Lord of lords and King of kings. (Rev 17:14)*

Pray for:

- peace where there is war
- relief for the suffering
- wisdom for leaders
- peacemakers to be successful
- greater cooperation to save our planet
- that all eyes would look to Jesus and his coming again

## For our Mission Partners

Pray for:

- fruit from their labour
- doors to be open to them
- good health and protection
- good communication links with their families
- good relationships with the local people
- both prayer and financial support
- the power of the Holy Spirit to send workers and increase the harvest
- time to rest and be refreshed

More information is available at the Mission Tables in the churches.

*We encourage you to use these prayer points to help you in your daily prayers.*



Church Family Service  
resumes on  
**18<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
Sunday School starts back  
**25<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



### **Flower Rota**

- 2 January - Doris and Jean
- 9 January - Gwen and Margaret
- 16 January - Louie and Doris
- 23 January - Gwen and Jennifer

### **Foodbank**

*The Next Foodbank Collection will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January*

We thank all those who have contributed each week and each month to help people in our community who are going through difficult times financially.

Boxes are on display at the rear of St Patrick's for gifts of non-perishable food etc. to be distributed each week. For further information speak to the team at the back of church.

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:  
"It is more blessed to give than to receive"*



## Scones and Songs

I have been involved with Age Concern Causeway for six years and one of my ambitions for the charity was to form a singing group. This group started last quarter of 2024 and quickly formed into an enjoyable weekly experience for all.

The benefits of music and singing have been well-documented and our singing group has provided a sense of identity and an opportunity to make meaningful connections through a shared experience.



To date we have visited The Brook, Coleraine, St. James, Ballymoney, Seabank, Portrush and The Cottage, Coleraine to entertain the residents and now a new venture, our Christmas Scones and Songs in St. Patrick's Church, Coleraine.

We are indebted to the Select Vestry of St.

Patrick's Church, Coleraine for the use of St. Andrew's Church for our weekly sessions and granting the use of St. Patrick's Church, Coleraine for our Christmas Scones and Songs in early December.



*If you have a family member or know anyone who might benefit from our singing group contact Oonagh or Mandy on 028 7035 7966.*

**Scones & Songs will recommence on  
Monday, 12th January 2:30 - 3:30 pm  
in St. Andrews Church, Coleraine.**

William McCandless

## Restored Ministries Coffee Morning

Our annual coffee and craft morning in support of Restored Ministries took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. We were treated to a very enjoyable time of fellowship, craic and the very finest coffee scones and tray bakes in Coleraine.

We were also entertained with some lively Christmas music from the PUB otherwise known as the Ukes at the Port.

The management committee of Restored Ministries would like to extend its thanks to everyone behind the scenes who helped make the event such a success. Huge thanks also to all of you for your continuous support for the charity. Your generosity this year amounted to £2700 which enables the charity to continue to support many individuals and families in the local area.

## Counterpoint Concert

Counterpoint choir presented their annual Christmas concert on the evening of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December.



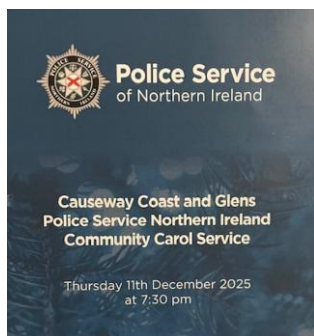
The choir's musical director is now our own Lesley Magee (pictured).

There were over 200 in the audience who enjoyed a varied programme of Christmas music and carols.

The committee of the choir is very grateful to the Select Vestry for permitting the use of our beautiful church for practices and bi-annual concerts.







## PSNI Community Carol Service 11th December

St. Patrick's Church hosted Causeway Coast and Glen's Police Service of Northern Ireland annual Carol Service. This was a wonderful event demonstrating talent from within our community with readers from Police Officers and staff, Women's Aid, and the Community Search and Rescue Team. It included a sincere speech addressing the congregation by Superintendent Yvonne McManus, the District Commander of Causeway Coast and Glens PSNI.



Performances were by: Causeway Coast Vocals, St. John's Primary School Choir and Musicians, Tiffany Amscheidt piano solo, INNOVA Irish Dance Company, PSNI Pipes and Drums, Ukes at the Port. Classic Christmas Carols were sung throughout by the 450 (approx.) members of our community who attended. The event was jointly led by our own Rev. Robert Simpson and Fr. Neil Farren and St. Patrick's Choir. Donations on the night, in support of Ashes to Gold, amounted to an amazing £1505.35.



At the conclusion of the service the congregation walked over to New Row Presbyterian Church Hall, where everyone had refreshments. The event was funded by Police and Community Safety Partnership.

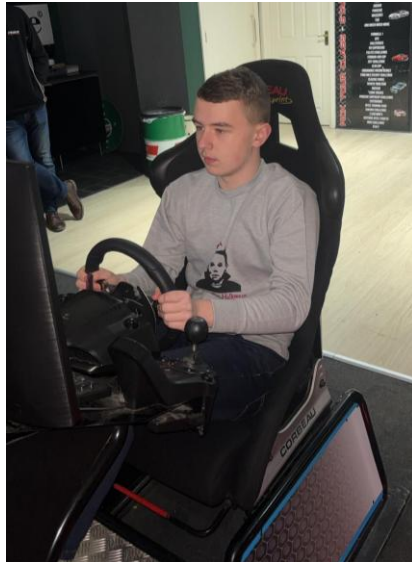






## Boys' Brigade

Company & Senior Boys had their Christmas Outing in Ballymoney at Room2Race, a very safe way for the boys to enjoy racing each other without any injuries or a dash to A&E





# Anchor Boys and Junior Boys Brigade Christmas Outing to the Community Rescue Service Christmas Experience.







## Girls' Brigade

GB had a fun night at their Christmas pyjama party! Seniors are at present doing a fund-raiser for little Sophia who was hit by the lorry after getting of school bus.

They are doing it at school as well as GB – a gift for Sophia's mum Lisa, and all proceeds are going to the family to support travel to and from hospital visits.



## CALENDAR JANUARY 2026

**Sunday 4 January**      **2nd SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS –**      **(White)**  
St Patrick's 10.00 am      St Andrew's 11.30 am  
Holy Communion      Holy Communion  
Rev. Ian Ballentine      Rev. Ian Ballentine

**Wednesday 7 January**      **The Epiphany (Transferred from 6th)**  
St Patrick's 1.00 pm Holy Communion  
Rev. Stephen Lowry

**Sunday 11 January**      **The Baptism of our Lord**      **(White)**  
St Patrick's 10.00 am      St Andrew's 11.30 am  
Morning Prayer      Morning Prayer  
Rev. Canon Paul Hoey      Rev. Canon Paul Hoey

**Wednesday 14 January**  
St Patrick's 1.00 pm Holy Communion  
Rev. Canon Paul Hoey  
ARTICLES FOR FEBRUARY MAGAZINE TO OFFICE TODAY

**Sunday 18 January**      **2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**      **(White)**  
**A Special United Service in St Patrick's 11.00 am**  
Church Family Service with Dedication of Memorial Window  
with Bishop George Davison and Rev. Stephen Lowry

**Wednesday 21 January**  
St Patrick's 1.00 pm Holy Communion  
Rev. Robert Simpson

**Sunday 25 January**      **3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**      **(White)**  
St Patrick's 10.00 am      St Andrew's 11.30 am  
Morning Prayer      Morning Prayer  
Rev. Canon John McCammon      Rev. Robert Simpson

**Wednesday 28 January**  
St Patrick's 1.00pm Holy Communion  
Rev. Robert Simpson

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO COLERAINE**

