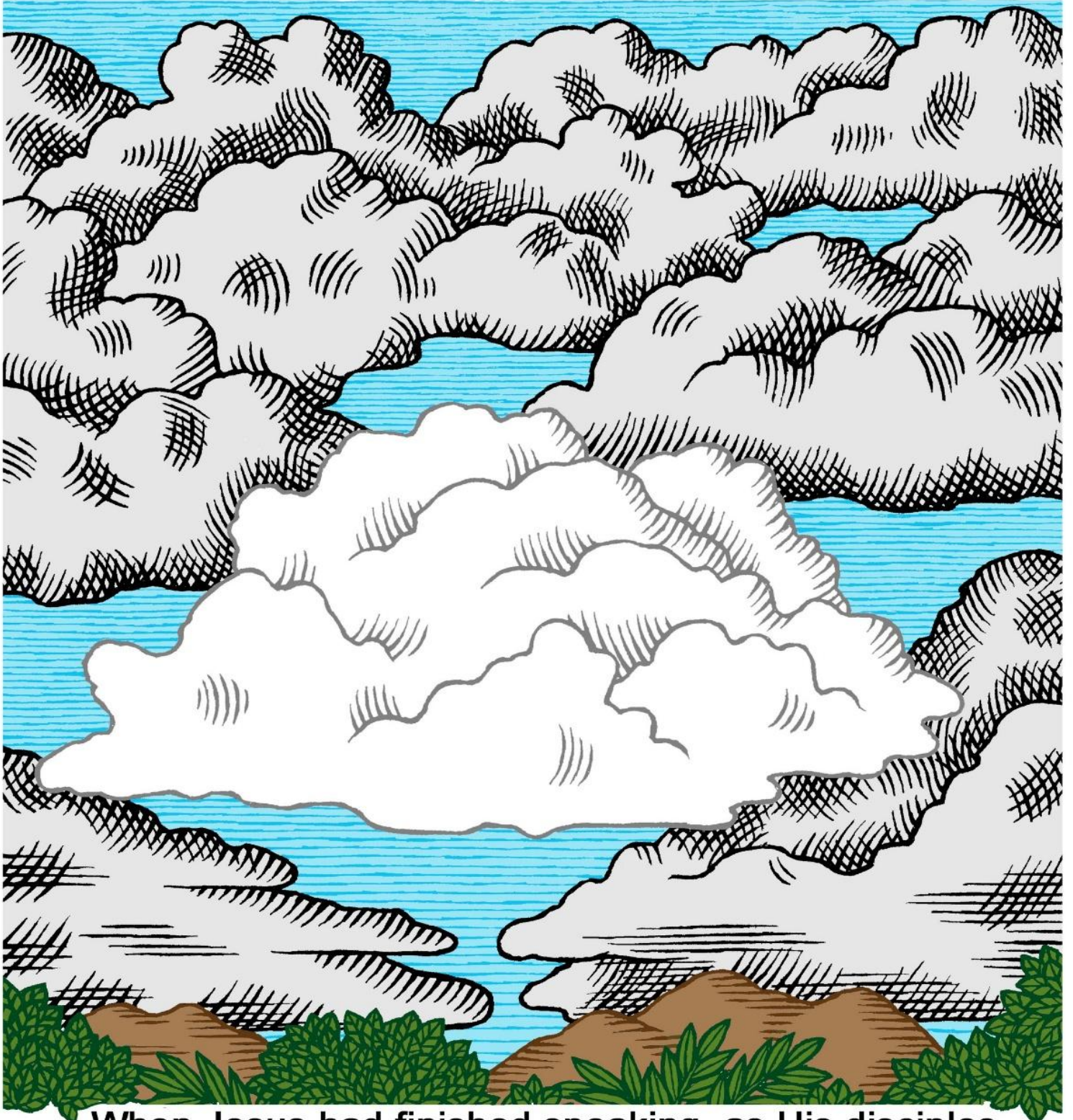


St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's
News and Views
May 2026



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9



In life we can suffer a lot of knocks. They can get us down and colour the rest of the day or the week or the summer, depending on how big the crisis seems.

Some people live in a kind of denial:

- their partner didn't mean to corrupt the company accounts - it was an accidental oversight which happened to give them a financial bonus.
- the death *did* happen, but it was so predictable that I don't need to spend time processing it - I had lost my parent a long time ago.
- the management team only picked on me because they knew I was strong enough to face the sack.

It is the similar sort of escapism which the self-absorbed personality uses to deflect any criticism of any kind.

Joy - in any such situation - is probably only surface deep, it is not "down in my heart" as the children's chorus asserts.

Wiser people live with greater realism:

- they recognise that grief is real, and takes time to process, and involves deep loss which wishful thinking cannot simply make disappear.
- they understand that anyone can fall to temptation, and that the embezzler is simply a thief who hoped their need was greater than the company's.
- they realise that they were sacked either because they were unremarkable in the workforce, or least likely to fight the dismissal.

Joy - in these situations - must be more than an act or a show, but rather drawn from the realisation that their misfortune does not define them. Such joy may indeed be down in their heart.

In the sermon Ian suggested:

We do not experience joy **INSTEAD** of grief, rather, in Christ we experience his joy **WHILE** we grieve. His joy **INFORMS** our suffering, and his joy **CO-EXISTS** with our tears.

Psalm 16 has one of my favourite verses in it, and another verse that formed a focus in Ian's sermon in church recently.

v **5** The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

How wonderful it is to live on this green(er) and pleasant(er) land, and to have experience of God richly blessing us with the part of it that we live in, on the north coast today!

v **10** You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is fulness of joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures.

How splendid it is to know that we have a heavenly Father who guides us, surround us with joy whatever the circumstances of the day, and who promises an eternity of joy and pleasure!

Thanks to Ian Ballentine for stimulating this article

The Prayer Room every Sunday

Please spend time in prayer (at your seat or with others in the Prayer Room from 9:40 am) to ask God to bathe the people at worship with his love.

Pray for those around you, that God would pour out his Spirit on the gathered people, and speak his life-changing truth to everyone present.

Weeknight Prayers

Members of the parish meet for prayer **each Tuesday night in St. Andrew's Church at 7.00 pm.** It is an opportunity to share together and to encourage one another in the work of praying for the parish. The monthly Prayer Pointers in this newsletter give you an opportunity to pray at home as well.

Christian Burial

Samuel Robert McKay

Wednesday 1st April, 2026



[Jesus said to the disciples] Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised...in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit...After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. [Acts 1:4,8]

As we ponder the significance of Ascension and Pentecost, may our daily lives be filled with worship and our prayers guided by the Holy Spirit.

I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. [Matt 16:18]

The Church is so precious to Jesus that He calls it His Bride, and for its sake He died. So, in our prayers, let us mirror that care as we...

- ❖ give thanks for all this branch of it means to us.
- ❖ pray faithfully for our newly elected Select Vestry and church officers,
- ❖ and for those endeavouring to resolve our parish problems,
- ❖ and also, that wise decisions are made for the wellbeing of us all by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, meeting May 7-9.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. [Ps19:1]

As Spring proceeds, visitors start coming to enjoy the wonders of God's creation around us in this area. We pray that...

- ❖ all who come [and us too] will recognise 'the work of his hands' and be drawn closer to their Creator.
- ❖ that all will enjoy the area and its special events, like the NW 200, in safety.
- ❖ that those across the area, children, teenagers, students, their teachers and parents, will prepare well, and with God's help, for their exams.

Blessed is the man...whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night...Not so the wicked...the way of the wicked will perish. [Ps1:1,4,6]

Let us meditate on God's Word and hear His perspective on world affairs. Let it guide our praying for...

- ❖ an end to the wars that rage, bringing death, destruction and misery to millions.
- ❖ an adequate response to the needs of our planet.
- ❖ a raising up of leaders of integrity, wisdom and compassion, based on the Word of God, to rule in our nations and world.

Go and make disciples of all nations...From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the Name of the Lord is to be praised. [Matt 28:19, Ps 113:3]

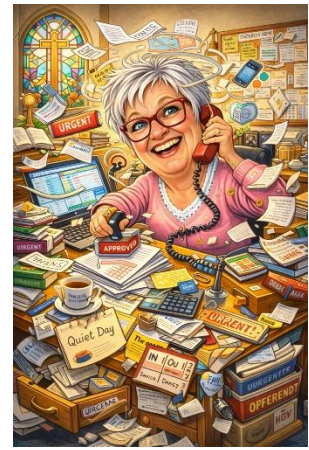
We give thanks that we can help God in His purpose to draw all people to a saving knowledge of His salvation by sharing the work of our Mission Partners through our prayers. The latest letters are on the Mission shelf, but a few particular things are...

- ❖ Andrew and Joanne Quill's home leave and their visits to supporting churches, including us in the autumn.
- ❖ Asha Creighton's A-level exams and the family visit to Ireland, and us, in the summer.
- ❖ Walter's students writing papers and Walter marking them, as their year ends.
- ❖ Magilligan Prison's forthcoming mission.
- ❖ Trevor Watson's difficult teenage Bible class at the church in Thorn, Sweden.

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. [Ps 116:1-2]

Chaos has resumed!!

Hi everyone, I just wanted to say a big thank you for all your support and kindness while I've been off sick. Your messages and understanding have meant a lot to me and really helped during this time. I'm looking forward to being back and catching up with you all soon. A special thanks to Patricia for stepping in and giving me space to get well x




St Patrick's Ladies' Group Meal

Venue: The Lodge Hotel

Date: Thursday 4th June

Time: 7:00 pm

Sign up sheets and Menus at back of church

Advance notice ** would you be willing to knit or crochet poppies to help  decorate the Church for our Remembrance Service in November? Patterns are at back of church

Ellen and Matthew O'Hara Married on 12th March



There was a great turn out of MU members from the parishes in N Connor for the area service held in St Andrew`s on Monday 13th April. Mrs Alison Skillen, Diocesan President, was present and also Mrs Caroline Glover, chair of N Connor area. The service was led by Rev Stephen Lowry who challenged us with the question Where is your Heart? The MU banners from all the branches were on display.



The last MU meeting before we break up for summer will be a Tea Party on Monday 11th May in St Andrew`s Church at 7pm.

Please note the earlier time. All are very welcome to come along and please bring a friend. We want to see a great turn out for an evening of food, fun and fellowship! JOIN US, JOIN IN.

Donations for Mothers' Union funds

It was great to see so many people involved in decorating the church for Easter Sunday. A huge thanks to everyone involved.



There were a few perks!

Easter Sunday at St. Patrick's





*Confirmation Preparation -
Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th*

August 2026

*3 days of adventure and discovery
around the North Coast*

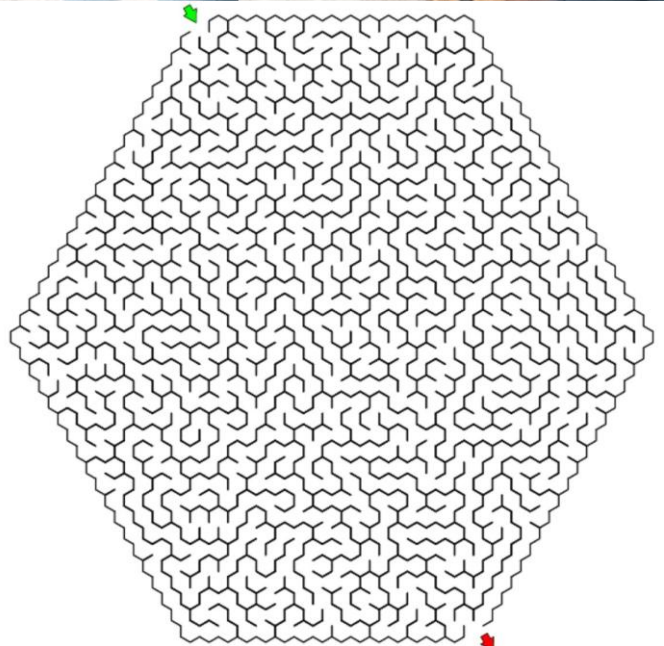
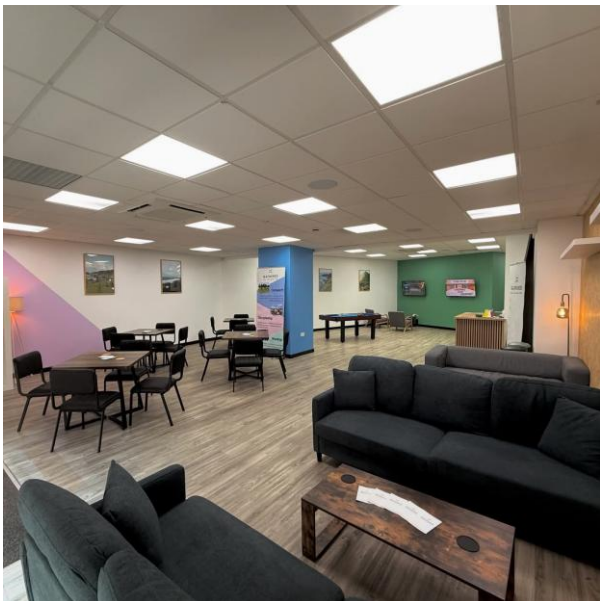


*Confirmation Service -
Sunday 27th September @ 7pm*





Bishop George officially opened the Gathered Centre on Easter Monday





The Boys receiving their President's Badges

Leon McKee, mum Laura, Elliot Murray, mum Leanne, Neil Cairns, mum Heather.

**Inspecting Officer Samantha Russell,
Principal
of Carhill Integrated Primary School and
Rev Robert Simpson**



1st Coleraine Boys' Brigade with their Awards



Many thanks to everyone who supported 1st Coleraine Boys' Brigade and the Dingbat Fireside Quiz.

**Total amount raised £210.00
The winner Mrs Gillian Anderson**

Gardening Tips



Know your plant:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Study how the expert grows fruit:

Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

Keep your tools clean in a safe place:

You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I in you.

Ensure the plant is well bedded into good soil:

Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

Understand how vital your role is for fruit production:

I am the vine; you are the branches.

Understand how much more vital the plant's role is for success:

The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

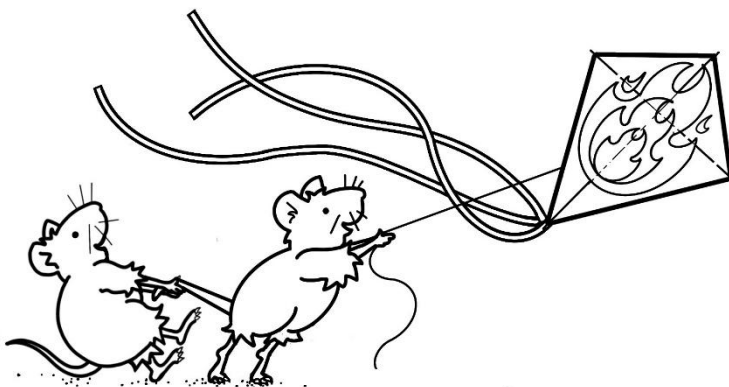
Beware of neglecting the routine tasks of gardening:

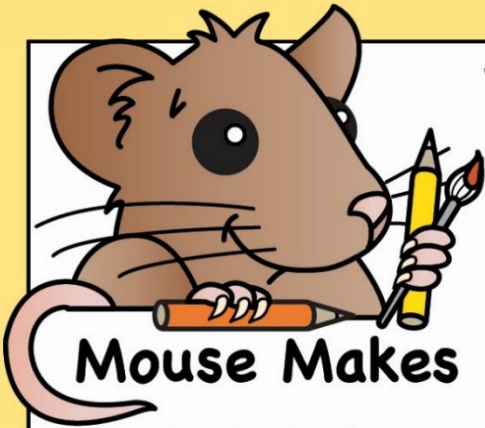
If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers.

For further gardening hints, read an easily readable manual, join the local gardener's club, and ask for help from someone there who knows the vine better than you do.

This unique sort of gardening club meets each SUNDAY at 10:00 and 11:30.

This article is drawn from John Chapter 15 in the Manual





Mouse Makes

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

 Genesis 1:2

The

 of the Father.
 Acts 1:4

The Spirit of
 A _____
 Romans 8:15

H _____
 John 14:26

The Spirit of

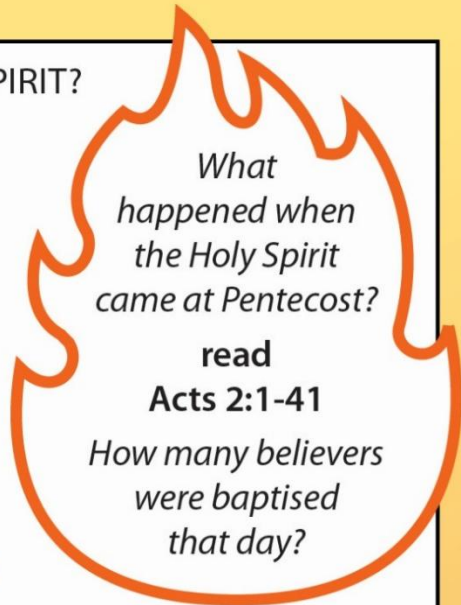
 John 16:13

The Spirit of

 Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit
 Galatians 5:22-23

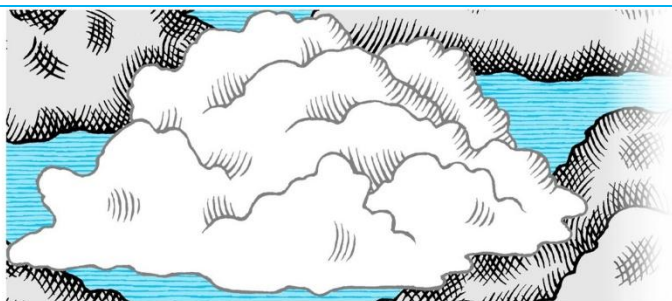
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 K P P R O M I S E R S R
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Look up the Bible verses and fill in the missing words. Look for them in the word search then look for these words below.

- HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
- ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
- GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND



May 2026

Calendar for

Sunday May 3rd 5th Sunday of Easter (White)

10:00 am Parish Communion SGEL St Patrick's
11:30 am Parish Communion SGEL St Andrew's

Wednesday 6th May

1:00 pm Midweek Communion RJS St Patrick's

Sunday May 10th 6th Sunday of Easter (White)

10:00 am Morning Prayer RJS with Geoff Hamilton of SAMS Ireland St Patrick's
11:30 am Morning Service RJS with Geoff Hamilton of SAMS Ireland St Andrew's

Wednesday 13th May Eve of The Ascension Day

1:00 pm Midweek Communion SHL St Patrick's

Sunday May 17th 7th Sunday of Easter (White)

10:00 am Church Family Service RJS with Claire Holmes St Patrick's
11:30 am Church Family Service RJS with Claire Holmes St Andrew's

Wednesday 20th May

1:00 pm Midweek Communion ICB St Patrick's

Sunday 24th May Pentecost Sunday (Red)

10:00 am Morning Prayer DPH St Patrick's
11:30 am Morning Prayer DPH St Andrew's

Wednesday 27th May

1:00 pm Midweek Communion DPH St Patrick's

Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday (White)

10:00 am Holy Baptism RJS St Patrick's
11:30 am Holy Baptism RJS St Andrew's
6:30 pm Sung Evensong St Patrick's

St. Patrick's & St. Andrew's
Parish Office: St. Andrew's Church
Hazeldene Drive
Coleraine
BT52 2HJ

Tel: 028 70344213 email: admin@stpats.co.uk

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am – 1pm, closed Wednesday

Parish office will be closed Monday 27th April to Monday 4th May inc.

If there is an emergency please contact

The Rural Dean Rev. Brian Harper on 07989743545

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland – NIC102902