

**St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's
News and Views
October 2026**



Harvest Services 11th October

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This year's Harvest Services

Decorating the church buildings with harvest produce is a delightful way to bring to mind the gifts of life which God has given us this year. The decorating this year in St Patrick's will take place on Saturday morning 10th October at 9:30 am. St Andrew's volunteers are planning to gather on Saturday at 10.30am to 12 noon.

The celebration of the Harvest has been a feature of worship for people of all communities, but we as a Christian community look back to ancient Jewish Festivals: as the Passover ended the farmers would bring the First-fruits of the crop by waving them before the priest. Seven weeks later 50 days, at the Feast of Pentecost, they would bring the produce of their harvest, in the form of loaves of bread to wave before the Lord. This was part of the ritual sacrifice which became obsolete when Jesus opened the way for all who believe to have a saving relationship with God: by faith in what Jesus had done, rather than trusting in what they could do! But we can and should learn from it.

Both the fruits of the field - from tiny seeds to vast vegetables and glorious flowers- and the produce of home bakers and cooks - symbolised by loaves- can be part of an act of thanksgiving to God. We wonder what our team will produce for us this year!

Preaching at the Harvest Thanksgivings (at 10:00 in St Patrick's and 11:30 in St Andrew's) will be Ollie Sims from CMJ. Please join us.

This year's Harvest Appeal will be for the Building Fund.

Envelopes will be available on Sunday 4th October.

Harvest?

What do you mean “Harvest”?

Decades ago the only time you could buy fresh beans was in the autumn when they arrived at the grocery store from local suppliers still in their pods: something similar could be said for strawberries, tomatoes, ‘new’ potatoes, and countless other goods.

What a blessing to live in a world where, now, you can find vegetables and fresh fruit every day of the year, if you choose, from farms all over the world! (Particularly the raspberries, speaking personally.)

One of the unplanned consequences of the new availability is the rise in greenhouse gases due to their needing to be transported all over the world, and the lack of any meaningful relationship between an autumn season of harvesting and the food we eat on the table.

Were it not for the seasonal opening of pop-up potato markets and the like, we would begin to forget the impact of seasons on our food!

Yet the season of harvest has not gone away: it is still exactly the same as it always was: just as perilous, dependent on the weather, reliant on hard working food producers and miraculous as God’s promise is fulfilled, that seedtime and harvest will not fail.

The tone of prayers at Harvest Thanksgiving Services has, however, changed. More and more our worship leaders plead with our heavenly Father to guide and direct our governments to conserve the environment. The summer past with five hot spells and a dearth of rain-water has made it impossible for even local people to grow food naturally in a moist and temperate atmosphere.

We, that is the human race and the businesses we support with our money, need to rethink, again, once more, how we are consuming the planet rather than sustaining its health. God did not promise to make food appear without also inviting the individuals he appointed to be stewards to take care of the environment, along with their effort to put the seeds etc. in place.

As we meet in St Patrick’s and St Andrew’s on 11th October to give thanks for the Harvest, let us continue to pray and to work so that our world is preserved in a healthy enough state for the years to come. What is your favourite seasonal food? Try to buy locally produced products wherever you can, and your small contribution to the environment will be a blessing to all.

SHL

Parish Prayer Points

‘All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all his love.’ (Hymn 308)

For Ourselves

‘The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. Psalm 34:17 NLT

Pray for:

- Lord help us to be wise children who please you in the way we live.
- Help us to honour Sabbath rest in our week that we may enjoy your provision for our wellbeing.

For our Parish

Pray for:

- our Harvest season of thanksgiving.
- our leadership team and all who volunteer to serve our churches.
- all who seek to teach and guide our children and young people.
- those who have recently been confirmed.
- Bishop George and all who are making decisions for our parish.
- the finances of the parish as costs rise with inflation.
- God’s guidance and blessing as we go forward.

For our Community

Pray for:

- those who feel hopeless or face the future with dread.
- those who face financial struggles due to rising fuel costs and colder weather.
- those whose health is failing.
- families and schools to be discerning about the demonic influences surrounding Hallowe’en traditions.
- our health workers and NHS management.
- local councillors to make wise decisions.

For our World

'May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me'. John 17:23 NLT

Pray for:

- peace where there is war.
- governments around the world that they would seek to improve the wellbeing of their people and promote peace.
- relief agencies to have access and resources to help the needy.
- greater cooperation to save our planet.
- the persecuted church.
- the name of Jesus to be lifted high in all the earth.
- that all eyes would look to Jesus and his coming again.

For our Mission Partners

Pray for:

- 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 Table at the back of the church. We encourage you to use these prayer points daily.

Christian Burials

Mrs. Marion Getty, (née Connor) of Ashton Drive passed away recently after a short illness. She was one of eight children from Long Commons and had fond memories of her childhood at St Patrick's.

Her late husband, David, predeceased her and her simple funeral service reflected how she had bade him farewell. We extend our sympathies to her daughters and the entire family circle upon their loss.



A passerby sent these in.



GroundForce in finals for award

If you have been following our Facebook page or referring to our website recently, you will have notices that our regular weekly maintenance team - called **GroundForce** - has been made a finalist in the awards given by the National Churches Trust (NCT) for contributions by church groups to their local community. We thank Jenny McGeehan and Patricia Taylor for submitting an application on behalf of the parish.

The NCT's Church & Community Volunteers Awards are offered each year to appreciate the dedication, care and impact of the people who care for the UK's wonderful Church buildings. We are delighted to announce that the **GroundForce** team at Saint Patrick's has reached the finals of this along with a strong group of other nominations for one of these awards.

One of our longer serving members, Graham MacDonald, is 90 years old this year, and we thought it was a good idea to draw attention to this regular voluntary work by applying for an award.

"Where it all began"



"Some of our current Volunteers"



We hope you value what all the members of the small GroundForce team do to ensure the church grounds remain welcoming and tidy for the many visitors who come to the church each week.

Our October meeting will take place on Mon 12th October at St. Andrew's 7.30pm Planting for the Future with Stephen Forde. Join us, Join in!

At MU in September our mission partners from South Sudan paid us a visit. It was at times encouraging and at times very challenging as we discovered more of life in Ibba where Rev Andrew and Mrs Joanne Quill are based.

Helen Cushion asked some questions to our speakers about themselves. Our mission partners told us that they met when they were members of St Paul's and St George's Church in Edinburgh. Joanne was training as a nurse while Andrew was involved in UCCF work in the city, while being part-time caretaker and a trainee in the parish. CMSI recognised their potential as overseas missionaries. When they were married they spent 3 years in Kenya - where their children were born - 6 years in Uganda before moving to their current location in South Sudan a few years ago.



They opened with a film of South Sudan, Ibba in particular. It revealed the basic poor state of roads, commerce, homes and educational provision in the country. Most people grew their own food: including a choice of sweet potatoes, nuts, peanuts, cassava, mangos, honey, maize flour and occasional goat meat. There is hunger in the community following a failure of rain this year. Fuel and food shortages are causing rapid inflation. A pastor there feeds himself and receives a paltry salary of less than £2.00 per month. But they are not the poorest of their church families!

Joanne outlined issues affecting women and men in Ibba. There is poor literacy especially among women: 84% of women are illiterate. Education opportunities are increasing for girls but is still unbalanced compared to boys. While the language is Xande, children are taught to read in English: this presents a crisis for people leading worship in the local language.

To help resource families and give them independence the diocese teaches hairdressing and cookery courses. This is organised by MU: but as women are not free to attend without husband's support attendance is sometimes haphazard affecting the outcomes.

The situation in health also caused dismay among the members and their guests: One in seven women died during their reproductive years and while one in ten children die from basic conditions such as malnutrition, untreated malaria and the like.

Andrew and Joanne are involved in what is known as CHE: **Community Health Empowerment**

Canon Emmanuel leads this programme, which addresses the issues limiting community life. He, along with Joanne and Andrew, trains CHE trainers to go out around their local community. Trauma Healing is a programme to help people deal with their more difficult experiences. 65% of women and girls in South Sudan experience sexual and/or physical violence in their lifetime. This rate is among the higher rates globally. Bible based Trauma Healing is used to help them bring their pains to the cross.

Andrew also told of their work to enhance the spiritual life of people starting with evangelism and then spiritual growth. They have used a one hour version of a film of Mark's Gospel in meetings, and sometimes half of the people present express a desire to come to faith!

Some of the local evangelists, being fairly illiterate, struggle to know how to present the Gospel to individuals. They teach them how to present the gospel using pictures. Leads to questions. Simple picture booklets provided for evangelists to carry in their pockets to help people understand the good news. Prayer ministry is now handled separately from the work of evangelism. Resources provided in the local language include an adapted Alpha Course, to help the people understand a little of their faith.

2 Timothy 2:2 ² You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

Members were challenged to look around and see whom we can disciple in our church and families. We were encouraged to model the area of ministry we have been given, enable others to imitate it, and then get them to do it. They will probably do it more effectively than we can! Everyone needs encouragement too.

Please Pray for . .

Peace and Stability in South Sudan (election 1st since 2011 due Dec 23rd.)
Canon Emmanuel - wisdom and guidance in leading CHE & Trauma Healing
More bible-based Trauma Healing to be available
Mothers' Union organisation and vitality

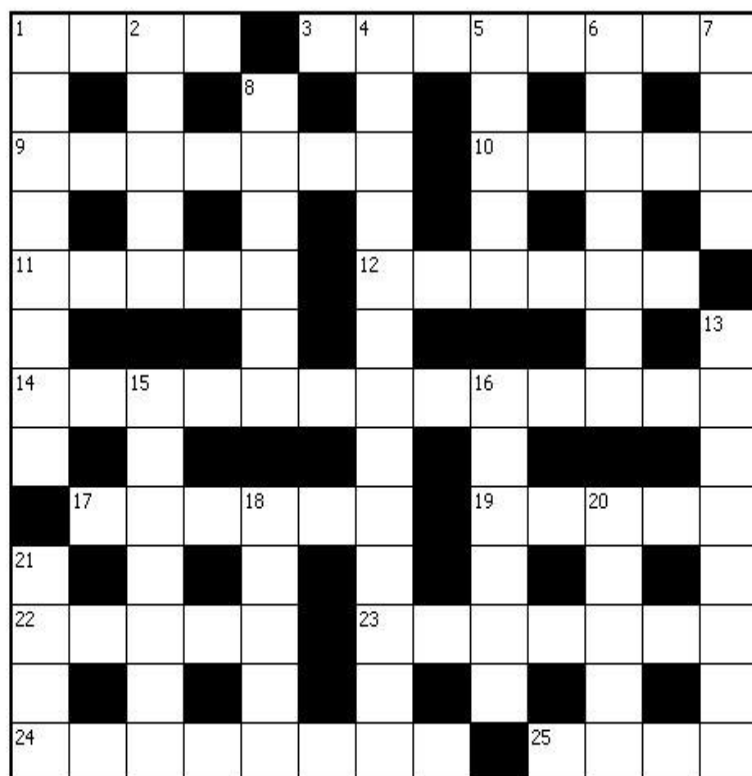


Mrs Jean Nevin had her
95th Birthday on
Wednesday 23rd September 2026
Rev. Ian Gallagher visits Jean.



A fund raiser event takes place
at St. Andrew's Church
on Tuesday 6th October, 2026 at 7 p.m.
Donation £5 per team of two

Crossword



Across

- 1 Those who were standing near Paul said, You — to insult God's high priest?" (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (I Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag) (4)

Down

- 1 I Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5,7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association

Choral Evensong at St Patrick's



with

Excelsus Chamber Choir

Sunday 18th October

at 6.30 pm

Music by Charles Wood, George Dyson,
Eleanor Daley and Alison Cadden

Formed in 2025, Excelsus Chamber Choir, which rehearses in Holywood, is a re-forming of The Balligan Consort. For many years, The Balligan Consort presented Choral Evensong twice a month at St Andrew's Church in the parish of Ballyhalbert. Excelsus continues that commitment to the Anglican choral tradition, bringing together a love of fine choral music with the beauty and tranquillity of the Evensong service.

Music has been at the heart of Christian worship for centuries, and the Anglican choral tradition remains one of the great musical treasures of these islands. Excelsus Chamber Choir is dedicated to keeping that tradition alive through both services and concerts. Since its formation, the choir has sung at St George's, St John's and St Molua's in Belfast, St Columb's Cathedral in Londonderry and St Mark's in Newtownards. Its Christmas Concert at Bangor Abbey last year was warmly received by an appreciative audience.

The musical programme for the October Evensong brings together works from different generations of the Anglican choral tradition.

The anthems will be ***O Thou the Central Orb*** by Charles Wood and ***Upon Your Heart*** by Eleanor Daley, with ***Peace be to this congregation*** by Alison Cadden as the introit. The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis will be George Dyson's wonderful setting, while the Preces and Responses are by Paul Spicer.

The organist will be **Daniel Clements**, who appeared as a recitalist in St Patrick's summer recital series earlier this year. The choir's Musical Director is **Tony Morrison**. The service will be led by **Stephen Lowry**.

Evensong is the Anglican Church's Office of Evening Prayer, given its distinctive form by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer. Its musical tradition developed over subsequent decades, with composers such as Thomas Tallis and William Byrd creating music that has remained at the heart of Anglican worship. Every generation since has added to this remarkable repertoire, contributing to the rich choral tradition found in cathedrals and churches throughout Britain and Ireland.

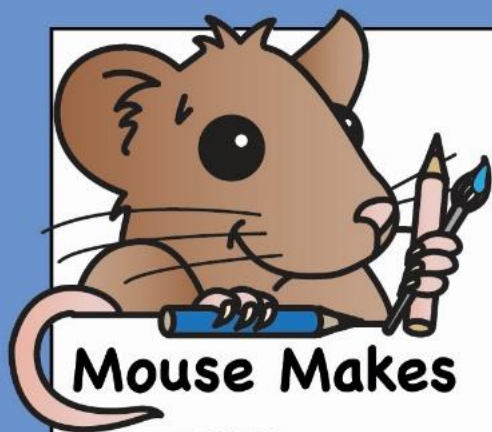
Yet Choral Evensong is not only for those who are familiar with the Anglican tradition. You do not need any particular religious belief to appreciate the service. There is remarkably little that is required of the congregation: sit, stand, sing a couple of hymns — and allow the choir and clergy to lead you through the rest.

Perhaps this is part of the particular appeal of Evensong. Its centuries-old pattern creates a powerful sense of connection between past and present, offering a moment to step away from the demands and distractions of everyday life. The music speaks in ways that words sometimes cannot, inviting us simply to listen, to be still and to reflect.

As St Paul's Cathedral puts it, Choral Evensong offers “**a space in which to be still and to catch the beauty of holiness.**”

Following the marvellous success of recent musical and choral events at St Patrick's, we warmly encourage you to come along to this special service on Sunday 18 October. Bring your friends, take some time out from the busyness of modern life, and experience the very special combination of music, silence, prayer and reflection that Choral Evensong offers.

All are very welcome.



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2



3

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like?

A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

5

6

7

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

9

10

11

12

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13

14

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?



of God.
Hebrews 4:12



Change your mind . . .

--- and put on some fresh clothes

Do you find it hard to read your bible and pray regularly? Join the club! It is all to do with our minds!

Among the reasons we struggle to read and pray is because our minds are so focused on wrong things, and our lives are so drawn to seek imperfect goals. A challenging passage for me is in Colossians 3. Let's think about it this month and see what changes God wants to bring about in our lives so we can live more for him!

Colossians 3:1-5,12 (NIV (UK 2011))

*1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on (or seek the) things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your **minds** on things above, **not on earthly things**. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

*5 **Put to death**, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. [and] ... 12 ... as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

We need a change of mind and a change of clothes.

We are to set our minds on things above, and we need to wrest control back from the (soiled clothes of our) earthly nature by putting on (the new clothes of) a loving nature. I sometimes wonder what Paul & co from the 1st Century thought when they talked about our mind. Apparently the mind was the place for decisions.

When we spend all our time *thinking* about where to sleep, what to eat, whom to wed, and how to get rich, we treat God's purposes for us as if they were trivial, unimportant, insignificant! We are treating life as if we were *merely* physical beings *without* a soul. There is more to life than getting a new. . . (fill in your own blank here!)

When we decide that God **is** most important, then seeking his will for our lives becomes a real priority in our day. So bible reading and prayer become as much part of our day as breakfast or lunch. We then realise that our sins are not just embarrassing weaknesses but life-limiting issues that need to be faced and changed.

Paul speaks about putting the earthly nature to death, that is, don't give it air, don't feed it, stop cultivating sin! But that leaves life a bit empty. doesn't it? So Paul adopts a further positive attitude.

In Colossians 3:12-17 Paul tells Christians to put on, like daily clothing, patterns of love.

- Tempted to *sin*? Don't focus on that: rather focus on something loving you can do.
- Tempted to *push people around*? Don't give room for that: instead, make others feel good by being humble.
- Tempted to be *selfish*? Don't do that: think of an act of kindness which you can do for someone else. Do you get the idea?

Help yourself set your mind on things above, get your daily intake from God by sitting down (or standing up) to read and hear his word, then get your hands dirty by serving others in love whatever way you can.

Gathered Confirmation

The Gathered Confirmation Service at 7:00 pm on Sunday 27th September, 2026 was organised by Jonny and the team. The church was well filled with 18 young people for Confirmation.

The service was organised by the Gathered Team, in consultation with Bishop George Davison who conducted the Laying on of Hands.

The ministry of Gathered has been such an asset to several of our local churches in this part of the Diocese of Connor. Please pray that, following this special day, the Lord will strengthen those taking part and help them go forward in faith and service where he leads them.

Crossword answers:

Across: 1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah Of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton

Down: 1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA



October 2026

Wednesday 30th September

1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's Church

Sunday 4th October - Trinity 18

(Green)

10:00 Parish Communion in St Patrick's Church

11:30 Parish Communion in St Andrew's Church

Wednesday 7th October

1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's Church

Saturday 10th October

9:30 Preparation for Harvest Service in St Patrick's Church

9:00 Preparation for Harvest Service in St Andrew's Church

Sunday 11th October - Harvest Sunday

(Green)

10:00 Harvest Service in St Patrick's Church

11:30 Harvest Service in St Andrew's Church

Our guest harvest preacher is Ollie Sims (CMJ)

Wednesday 14th October

1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's Church

Sunday 18th October - Trinity 20

(Green)

11:00 United Enrolment Service BB & GB in St Patrick's

There is no separate service in St Andrew's this Sunday

6:30 Choral Evensong by Excelsus Chamber Choir St Patrick's

Wednesday 21st October

1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's Church

Sunday 25th October - 5 Before Advent

(Green)

10:00 Sunday Morning Prayer in St Patrick's Church

11:30 Sunday Morning Prayer in St Andrew's Church

Andrew & Joanne Quill, CMSI Mission Partners will speak

Wednesday 28th October

1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's Church