

St. Patrick's and St. Andrew's

News & Views

November 2026

Contents

Psalm 46. 2
Sharing your faith 3
Prayer pointers November 2026 4
Harvest 5
Beetle! 7
Evensong: Excelsus chamber Choir 7
Reflecting on Remembrance Day 8
Christian Funerals 9
Crossword 11
Craft Group 12
MU 13
Wordsearch 14
Calendar November 2026 16

Psalm 46.

A Psalm which we often read on Remembrance Sunday is Psalm 46. It might be familiar to readers. Please read this slowly now (rather than skipping to the end as I would sometimes do) to remind you of the lament voiced in hope by the psalmist's:

1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

8 Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

10 He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'

11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46 (NIV (UK 2011))

As we struggle with the wars and rumours of wars that seem to arise in the media every day, we need to find hope in God, and this psalm is a good place to start.

Recite verse 1 when you hear news of conflicts. Remind yourself that God is aware of our trouble but does not abandon us in such times (verses 1-3).

Remind yourself (verses 4-6) there is a better place where God's rule is unsullied by human pride and violence, a place of which in Christ we are citizens.

Repeat verse 7 (and 11) to help you draw strength from God.

Recall (verses 8-9) the ways in which wars that seemed to be all tragedy have been followed by seasons of hope and restitution. The tragedy has been followed by restoration. We recall the sacrifices made, but we refuse to live as if those sacrifices made no difference. People died for our freedom so let us live as free people and turn away from those who would repeat former mistakes.

Reflect on verse 10, that word from God which tells us to "be still, and know that *he* is God". Many modern *influencers* suggest we take time to be still: we *can* do that, but as *believers* we can remember that we have a God who reigns.

Rehearse the truth of verse 11:

The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Go in peace. SHL

Sharing your faith

During his sermon on Sunday last, the Rev Andrew Quill drew attention to a verse in the New Testament which I had not thought about before. I immediately noted it so I could study it!

I hope, at times, you allow yourself to reflect on the particular verse after you've been to Church. Do you write the verse down, or can you just remember it?

Here goes! It was from **Philemon verse 6:**

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

The observation Andrew made was something like this:
Christians are often afraid to share their faith with others. Yet the very act of explaining it guarantees you will understand it better!

As soon as we start actively sharing our faith, telling our story, speaking about what Jesus means to us, we will grow in our understanding of the faith itself.

SHL

Prayer pointers November 2026

The Lord reigns. He is robed in majesty and is armed with strength (Ps 93:1)
This November, whatever the weather or our circumstances, let us live and pray with the assurance that our God reigns…

Over our lives

Giving thanks that the God who reigns over our lives is loving, knows us completely and wants to guide and bless us. (Ps 139)
Pray also for those known to you who are in difficulty, distress or need, that they too know the comfort and encouragement of His sovereignty in all things.

Over His church

Continue to pray for good news soon of a resolution of our leadership issues.
Pray week by week for Jonny Diamond and leaders of the Gathered activities… Monday and Tuesday after school drop-ins, Friday evening young adult discipleship group and Sunday evening teens fellowship time… that more and more young people come to know and live their lives for our God.
And pray for our fellow believers worldwide living under threat of persecution.

Over our Province and community

Pray for peace across the Province, resolution of divisive, distracting issues and forward movement in setting a budget and governing for the good of all.
As commercial pressure mounts already around us towards Christmas, pray that we, and more people in our community, will resist it, be generous to the needy among us and set our hearts to celebrate the true meaning of the season.
Pray for our Year 7 children, sitting the transfer tests this month, that they will prepare well… and that parents and teachers will have wisdom and patience to defuse any anxiety, and anchor children in love and security.

Over the world

'The Lord reigns over the nations'. (Ps 47:8) Pray for the establishment of His just reign, bringing peace among the nations.
Pray for the expansion of the Kingdom of God in our world, as you pray for our mission partners, directly engaged in His work. (info on Mission table)
Pray for relief to reach all who suffer as a result of war and natural disaster.

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice'. (Ps 97:

Harvest at St Patrick's & St Andrew's

Preparation for Harvest seems fun









St Patrick's

Joyful creativity was evident from the flower team and church organisations. They presented us with a challenge to take time to look at and enjoy the fruitful autumn harvest we enjoy. Many thanks to all those who gave thought, time, money, produce and flowers. We really appreciate your support.





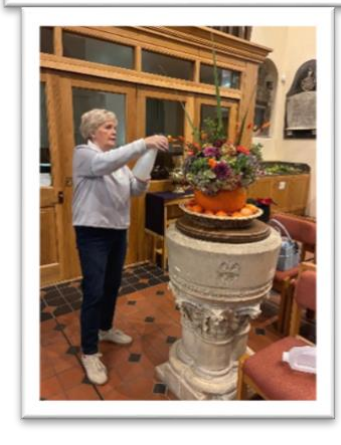














St. Andrew's







A huge Thank You to everyone who contributed to decorating the Church for Harvest







Fun times for the boys and girls



Beetle!

"Hard to beat the old games" was a phrase heard more than once at the Beetle Drive held at St Andrew's last month. The rules may have changed a little as the evening progressed, (who said they were making it up as they went along?) but a great night's craic was had by all. Some of us could hardly throw a six to get a body all night, while others had their head, eyes, feelers, legs and tail added in a flash. Not fair! We got to know each other better across the generations and laughed a lot. Our youth worker Jonny enjoyed it so much he decided to run a Beetle Drive just for the young people. Thanks to Jenny, Patricia and Alice for all their work in organising the event. Now, when is the next one? (Paul Hoey)

This event raised £120 for the Building Fund.





Evensong: Excelsus chamber Choir



Reflecting on Remembrance Day

The First and Second World Wars were fought a long time ago, and the memories of churches all over the land being filled with ex service-men and women on Remembrance Sunday is no longer fresh in our minds.

Yet the lessons of recent history, and present day events, leave us in no doubt that we must remember the cost of war, and the need for that price to be paid to live in peace.

When we consider the number of times the major nations of the world are addressing each other with threat and aggression, and seeking to subdue all opposition by displays of power, we would be foolish to eliminate the threat of war from our thinking. Yet we often say to ourselves "It couldn't happen again, could it?" I hope we are right.

The destruction of human life in pursuit of the conquest of territory has shown itself in Ukraine to be a hopeless failure. Victory in such a situation, whoever claims it, will be a Pyrrhic one.

According to Britannica, the term Pyrrhic victory goes back to a King called Pyrrhus. He fought two battles at Heraclea (280 BC) and Asculum (279 BC), against Roman soldiers advancing against Greeks. He was successful, but it left him so weakened that the more numerous Romans were able to win a third decisive battle at Benevetum four years later.

The cost of lives with Putin's war and the cost to the world economy of Trump's war make any potential victory a loss both for the world and the victorious generals. The sacrifice of principle displayed in the course of the very public interactions leaves many people cold, and fearful.

As we lay wreaths at the Town Hall in Coleraine on 8th November, and at war memorials in churches around the community, let's remember the courage and the cost which needs to be gathered to defeat relentless enemies. And let us pray for God's rule to break in, both to Red Square and Pennsylvania Avenue, lest the peace of the world be shattered by pride and fear of failure. SHL



Christian Funerals



Mr Nigel Semple, from Dungiven originally, became a full-time part of the Coleraine community when he was appointed Physics Teacher at Coleraine High School in 1968. He served the community here as a much loved educator and key member of the staff team for 30 years.
As a keen sportsman he had played rugby for Dungannon RFC, and added Cricket, Tennis and Squash as a member of Coleraine Rugby, Cricket and Hockey Club. He was a keen golfer at Royal Portrush GC.
His membership of St Patrick's began when invited to become a member of the Choir, and he and Anne and their family, Bryan and Gillian, began worshipping here.
His funeral service in the church was accompanied by the leaders of his two choirs, Counterpoint and the parish choir, and the combined musicians paid tribute by their presence and support.
We extend our sympathy to Anne and their family, and assure them of our prayers in the years ahead.

Mr John Doherty passed away recently aged 95 after a long life of travel, hard work and family life.
He and his wife Sheila lived in Australia and New Zealand over their lifetime, where John worked with cattle and sheep. He and Sheila were always members of whichever local church felt right, and recently the chaplain at his retirement home offered John spiritual comfort.
With his wife's death only a few months ago, it was a particularly poignant time for their son David and his family who were able to be present, and to son John and his family who shared in the service from their home in New Zealand.
We extend our continuing sympathies to the Doherty and MacDonald families.



Irene Johnston (nee Ralph) – 19th October 2026 (peacefully) at hospital, dearly beloved wife of the late Desmond, much loved mother of Tanya and Philip, mother-in-law of Chris and Nick and loving nana of Lily and Blake. Service in St. Patrick's Parish Church.

Irene Doherty (née Freeman)
21st October 2026, peacefully at Causeway Hospital, Irene, late ofNewmills Road, Coleraine. Dearly loved wife of the late Denis, loving mother of Dennis, Sherry and Tracey, mother-in-law of Marie and Rodney; much loved grandmother of Nicki, Aaron, Heidi, Harry and Benny, great-grandmother of Jack, Alex, Aria and Neah and dear sister of the late Joe, Herbert and Sheila.
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Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade Enrolment













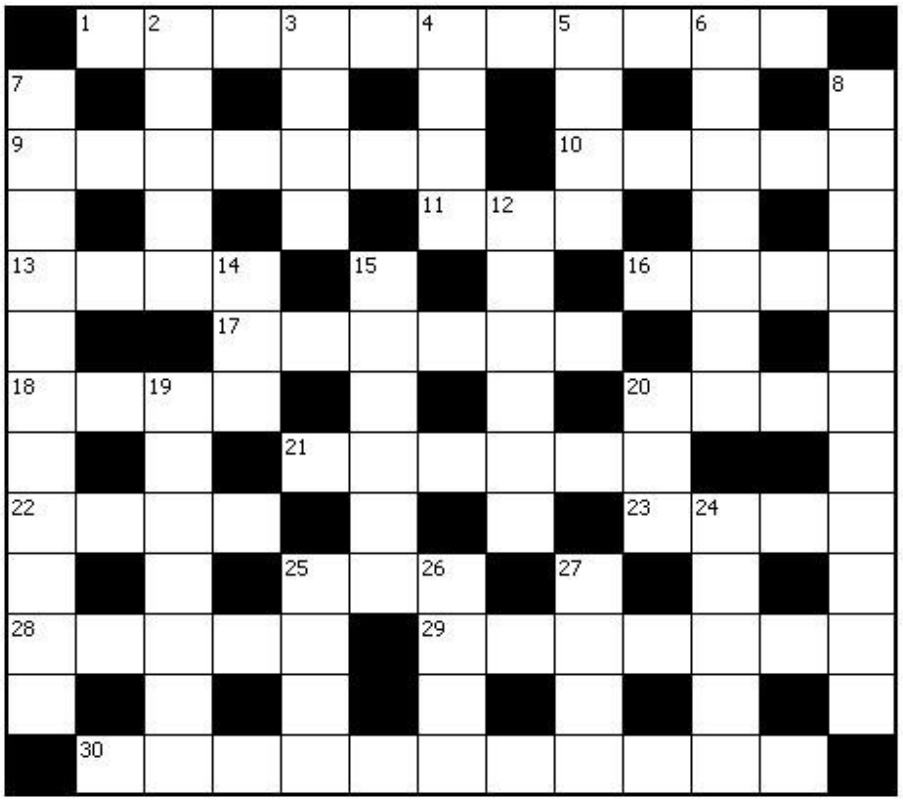




What a fun service for our GB/BB Enrolment Service thanks to Stephen and Jonny.



Crossword



Crossword Clues & Answers

Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)

9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)

11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)

13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)

16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)

17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)

18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)

20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)

21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)

23 Infectious tropical disease (4)

25 Tree (3)

28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)

29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem _ how _I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4)

4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)

5 Done (anag) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir

7 Concerning study of God (11)

8 Uniquely it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3)

15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

20 See 1 Across

24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag) (4)

26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6: 23) (4)







Ladies sewing poppies in preparation for Remembrance Sunday



Craft Group

Following the success and enjoyment of the poppy project - many thanks to Patrica Taylor for organising this - we are planning to continue with a regular craft group after Christmas. To get things going, this group is going to be for UFOs - the Un-Finished Objects hidden in the back of our cupboards. So if you have half-knit jumpers, part-crocheted blankets, unbound quilts, incomplete cross-stitch, abandoned embroidery - or whatever else you started and didn't finish - do come along and join us. All are welcome - even if you are starting a new project - we won't judge! Our hope is that the new craft group will meet for chat, coffee, and some work on those UFOs in the Gathered premises on a Monday morning starting mid January - details to follow after Christmas.



MU

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



At our October meeting Stephen Forde shared many helpful gardening tips and some members were delighted to win spring flowering bulbs. We also received several knitted items which will be given to maternity units and care homes. Thanks to our talented knitters!



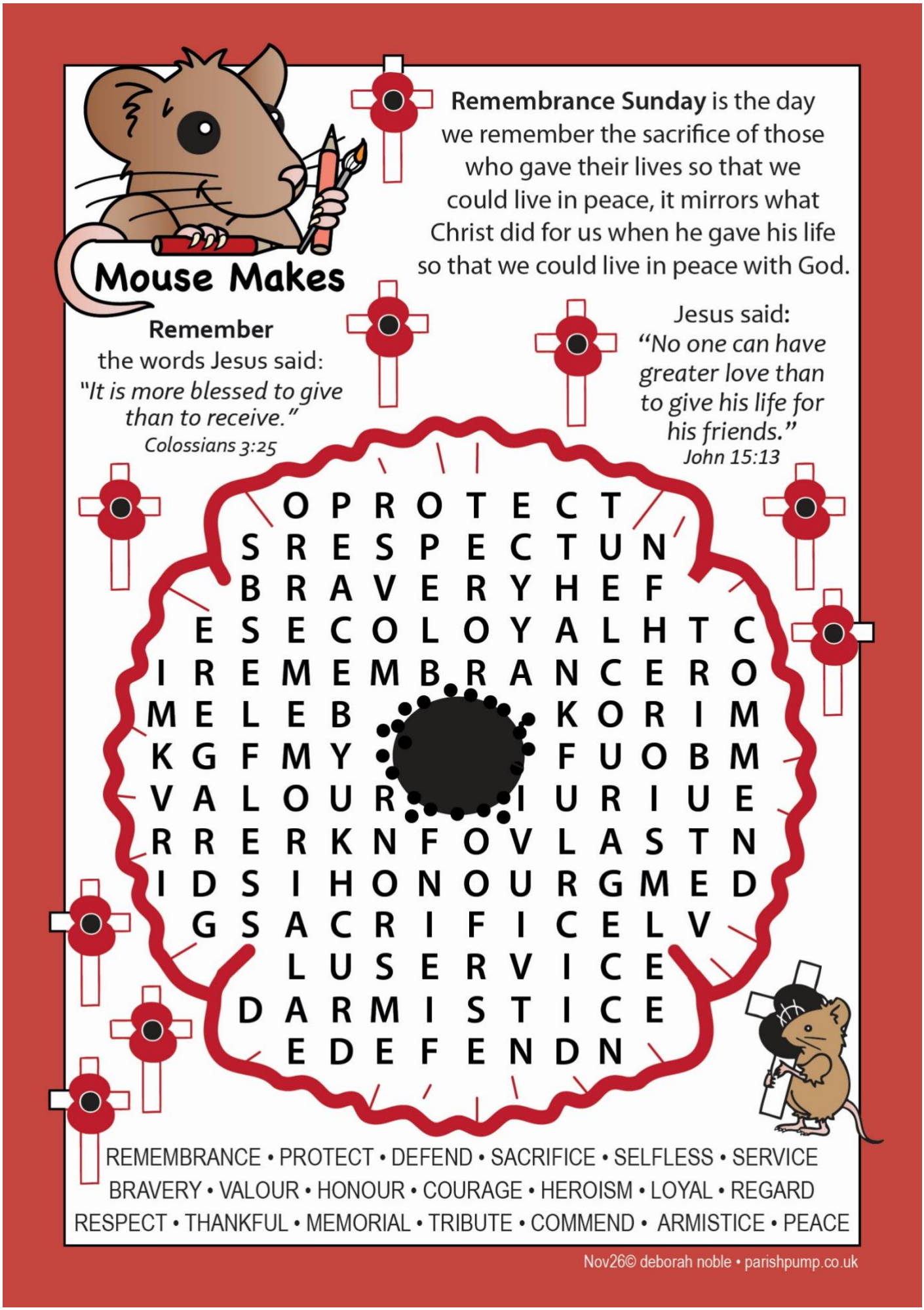


Our next meeting is on 9th November at 7 30 pm in St Andrew`s Church when Stephen Vandevyver from **Icare Opticians** will speak about his trip to Kilimanjaro. All welcome. Join us, join in!

REMINDER

Fees £35 now due. Please put in a named envelope and give to our treasurer Patricia McWhirter.

Wordsearch


Mouse Makes
Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25
Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.
Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13
O P R O T E C T
S R E S P E C T U N
B R A V E R Y H E F
E S E C O L O Y A L H T C
I R E M E M B R A N C E R O
M E L E B K O R I M
K G F M Y F U O B M
V A L O U R I U R I U E
R R E R K N F O V L A S T N
I D S I H O N O U R G M E D
G S A C R I F I C E L V
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D A R M I S T I C E
E D E F E N D N
REMEMBRANCE • PROTECT • DEFEND • SACRIFICE • SELFLESS • SERVICE
BRAVERY • VALOUR • HONOUR • COURAGE • HEROISM • LOYAL • REGARD
RESPECT • THANKFUL • MEMORIAL • TRIBUTE • COMMEND • ARMISTICE • PEACE
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St. Patrick's Church Coleraine

Coffee Morning

to raise funds for the Bell Tower

Saturday 28th November

10am to 12 noon





Crossword answers

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16. Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

GATHERED
A PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY

29th November - Dunseverick Parish Church

Please note next Sunday we will be hosting the main RBL service, and it will be at 11.30 in St. Patrick's and the service will still remain at 11.30 in St. Andrew's.

The Parish office will be closed from Friday 13th to Friday 20th November inc. If there is an emergency, please contact the Rural Dean Canon Brian Harper tel:07989743545



November 2026

Calendar November 2026

1st November 2026 All Saints' Day **(White)**
10:00 Parish Communion in St Patrick's
11:30 Parish Communion in St Andrew's

4th November 2026
1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's

8th November 2026 Remembrance Sunday **(Green)**
11:30 Remembrance Day in St Patrick's
with Rev I Thompson
11:30 Remembrance Day in St Andrew's
with Mr. Wm. McCandless

9th November 2026
7:30 Mothers' Union Meeting in St Andrew's
with Stephen Vandevyver *Visit to Kilimanjaro*

11th November 2026
1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's

15th November 2026 2 Sunday before Advent **(Green)**
10:00 Holy Baptism at Family Worship in St Patrick's
11:30 Church Family Worship in St Andrew's

18th November 2026
1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's

22nd November 2026 Christ the King **(White)**
10:00 Morning Prayer in St Patrick's
11:30 Morning Prayer in St Andrew's

25th November 2026
1:00 Midweek Communion in St Patrick's

28th November 2026
10.00 Coffee Morning for Bell Tower in St Patrick's

29th November 2026 Advent Sunday **(Purple)**
10:00 Morning Prayer in St Patrick's
11:30 Morning Prayer in St Andrew's