

# St Patrick's Parish News



**Spring 2025**

Dear Friends

In St John's Gospel, just before Jesus dies, he cries out, "...I thirst...". Soldiers soak a sponge in sour wine and hold it to his lips on a hyssop branch. Then, when Jesus has drunk the wine, he bows his head, says "...It is finished..." and dies.

At first glance the meaning of 'I thirst' is quite obvious. It is a painful and poignant moment in a grim story: Jesus is dying on the cross, he is in agony and he longs for a drink to ease the pain. What more is there to say? It is a ghastly death, but scripture tells us much more. The Jesus we see thirsting on the cross is the One who, born in human likeness, has emptied himself of equality with God, taking the form of a servant, and becoming obedient even to death.

In Jesus we see God thirsting on the cross, carrying the world's suffering, sharing our humanity. As Christians, we are sometimes guilty of rushing swiftly from the agony of the cross to the blessed relief of Easter morning. But there are times when we need to stand at the foot of the cross and hear, over and over again, Jesus' words: 'I thirst'.

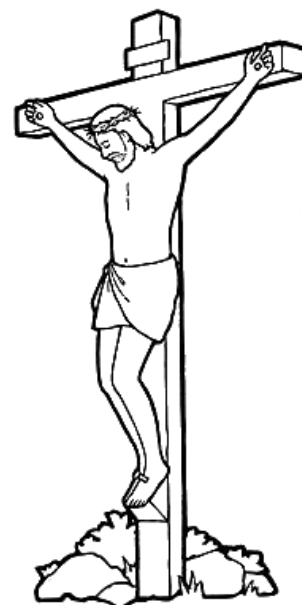
There is a story of a mother whose little girl is late home one day. As the minutes tick by the mother gets increasingly worried. Five minutes go by, then ten, and the mother does not know where the little girl can be. As more time passes the mother starts to imagine the terrible things that may have befallen her daughter. The mother is distraught and on the verge of calling the police when, suddenly, the little girl waltzes in through the back door without a care in the world. The mother sweeps her daughter up in her arms, deeply relieved that she is safe. But, as is the way with parents, relief quickly turns to anger. "Where have you been?" the mother cries. "Didn't you realise how worried I would be about you?" It becomes clear that the little girl had been next door with their recently widowed neighbour. "What have you been doing worrying that poor lady?" the mother asks crossly. "I haven't been worrying her" said the little girl "I have been comforting her". "Comforting her"? retorted the mother, "What could you possibly do to comfort her"? The little girl replied, "I climbed into her lap and cried with her".

This is a supreme example of our relationship with God at the crucifixion. Jesus, the one who thirsts on the cross, is also the one who climbs into our lap and cries with us. He shares the most tremendous joys of human life and the most heartbreaking sorrows. On the cross, when Jesus cries out in thirst, the misery and anguish he is suffering are not just his, though the pain is very real: they resonate with every human cry and with all human suffering. Wherever there is pain in the world, whenever someone cries out, thirsty for water, afflicted with grief, tormented by pain, or craving love, we hear the cry of the One who has come to earth to show us what God is like. We discover that God is thirsting too. In the suffering, thirsting love of Christ we see the thirsting, suffering God.

A blessed Easter to you all

Your friend and Rural Dean

David



# Parish Register

## Holy Baptism

9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Georgia Tracey Lucas

Daughter of Gregory and Stacey Lucas

## Holy Burial

29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

David Clyde

Husband of the late Pearlie

Father of Avril, David, Harold, Barbara,  
Jacqueline, Robert and Tina



## **GENERAL**

# *EASTER VESTRY* **MEETING**



**General Vestry/Church AGM**

**St Patrick's Church Hall**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

**At 7.30pm**





## 2025 Theme Join Us & Join In

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Connor

© The Diocese of Connor Mothers' Union

In St Matthew's gospel, Jesus says "...*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden...*" (Matthew 5:14).

This is a call to make our witness visible, not just for our own benefit, but to draw others into the light.

**'Join Us and Join In!'** is an invitation to step into that light, to become part of a community which is actively living out Christ's call to justice, peace, and love. It acknowledges that the work of Mothers' Union is not only about individual transformation or isolated acts of charity, but also about creating a movement of people, united in faith and mission, working together to bring about tangible change.

*Save the Date*

JOIN US and JOIN IN  
*All Ireland Mothers' Union  
Annual Getaway 2025*

Friday 3rd October  
Saturday 4th October

Four Seasons Hotel & Leisure Club,  
Coolshannagh, Monaghan, H18 Y220

*Guest Speaker*  
*Ish Lennox,*  
*Faith & Church Relations Manager*  
*at Mary Sumner House*

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of All Ireland

Mothers' Union in Ireland is recognised as a Charity  
by the Revenue Commissioners, 5161 Registered  
Charity Number - 20007331 (Charity Regulatory  
Authority) [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)

At our November meeting members brought presents for the women who will spend Christmas in the Women's Aid refuge in Ballymena. Thank you all for your generosity.

Members and friends met in December for an enjoyable meal in The Thatch.

Following the AGM in January, there are some changes in the Branch - Violet Lucas has taken over responsibility for running the Tots Group as the Young Families representative, Helen Foster is Treasurer, Hilary Boddy is Worldwide representative, Cathy Doig is Prayer representative, and Joyce Bond is the Diocesan Contact.



Sally Cotter completed her term of office as Connor Diocesan President at the end of 2024. Our new Diocesan President is Alison Skillen and we look forward to welcoming her to St Patrick's later on this year to help celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## Diary dates

- March 23<sup>rd</sup> Connor Diocesan Festival Service & commissioning of the new Diocesan President - St Anne's Cathedral at 3.30pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> March Quiet evening/church service for Lent
- 30<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday
- 20<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday
- 23<sup>rd</sup> April Planning meeting - Stoney Room at 8pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> May Guest speaker – Beth Montgomery from AsiaLink - Stoney Room at 8pm

**All our meetings are open to everyone – join us, join in!**

You can find out more about what is happening in Mothers' Union, in Connor Diocese, Ireland and Worldwide by going to [www.connormothersunion.org](http://www.connormothersunion.org) or [www.mothersunion.ie](http://www.mothersunion.ie)

### SUPPORT SERVICES NORTHERN IRELAND



#### Freephone 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Abuse Helpline

Open to all women and men affected by domestic & sexual abuse

0808 802 1414

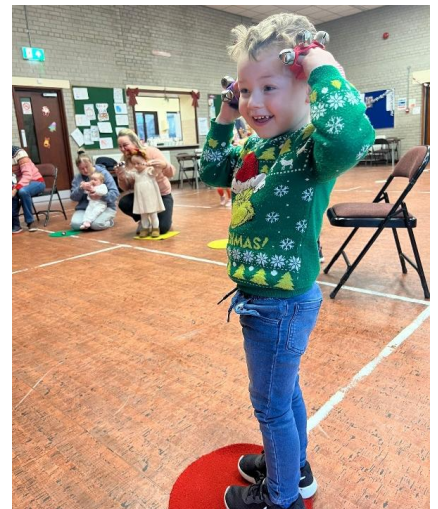
**PSNI**

(In an emergency ring 999)

101



## Tots Group having lots of FUN!





## Small Things

On St Patrick's Day each year crowds of people make their way to Slemish, and many of them make it to the top. I'm sure they see that as an achievement, and it certainly is. Mind you, Slemish is hardly a mighty mountain. In comparison to the great mountains of the world, it is a mere pimple. 600 feet is the height difference between the visitor centre and the summit. The summit of Everest stands over 29,000 feet above sea level – that means it is roughly 50 times the height of Slemish.

I have flown up to and around Everest and seen it in all its majesty. I have done a little trekking in some of the Nepalese mountain ranges, but I never trekked up to the base camp of Everest even though it is not that demanding – it is a very crowded route. As to climbing Everest, that obviously would be unthinkable.

Yet, in a sense, I have climbed Everest. How come, you might ask? By climbing Slemish 50 times and thus reaching the height of Everest. In no way could I possibly do the big thing, but I could do the small thing again and again and again.

This makes me think. Most of us will probably not achieve great things in our lives: yet we can do small things again and again. Will this not be a great achievement? The small things, then, are important, especially as they mount up. The smile we give someone, the word of encouragement, the attention we pay to someone, the simple act of kindness, the warm tone to our conversation, the expression of apology or thanks – all of these little things, as they are repeated, add up to the big difference we make.

We may be ashamed of those who do great things, or we may admire them. Yet let us recognise that doing small things again and again is, of itself, great. Jesus himself commends such small things *"...If anyone gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, he will certainly not lose his reward..."*. So, plenty of those cups of cold water – those little acts of kindness, please!

Stuart Lloyd



No act of  
**KINDNESS**  
IS EVER WASTED.



December was a busy time for Sunday Club. We had our Christmas outing to see Moana 2 which we all found very

entertaining! 😊



Breakfast with Santa was next. We all enjoyed our bacon/sausage baps and extend a big 'thank you' to all involved with the food preparation. Santa's visit was the highlight, and he gave all the

children a selection box after which they sang to him before he headed back to the North Pole.



We had the Sunday Club Nativity on the 22nd

December. Unfortunately, some children could not be there due to sickness, but those who were present

put on a wonderful performance. They were all super stars.

We continue to enjoy being together on a Sunday morning where we listen to Bible stories such as Esther, Naaman, Gideon, Solomon and Nehemiah. We have fun playing games, having quizzes and making crafts!



*Sunday Club leaders* 😊

---



**We need:**  
all cereals  
tinned meat  
tea bags  
instant coffee  
cleaning products





## Broughshane Scout Group

With the support of HQ and Slemish District we have successfully filled our leader vacancies. We are pleased to welcome Adam, Ashley, Andrew and Vanessa to the leadership team.

We were therefore able to restart our Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer sections in January :)



As we have new members and our existing membership has grown since we last met, we arranged for *scoutsinaroundni* to visit the group so members could try on and buy uniforms.

*Derek*  
Group Scout Leader



## EXPLORERS

This term our Explorers have been perfecting their outdoor skills.



## Scouts



The Scout Troop restarted in January under the leadership of Hilary and Samantha. We've been hard at work building the troop with teamworking games, cooking a Giant Jaffa Cake as well as learning about the local community with the PSNI.



We're excited to learn about camping stoves, fire safety and do some map and compass work in the next few weeks in preparation for the summer term.

## cubs

We restarted in January and have welcomed five new cubs to the pack. To date we have been working towards achieving or global issues and international badges.



## Beavers

The Beaver Colony started back on 13<sup>th</sup> January following the recruitment of our new leader, Adam. We also welcomed four new Beavers.



This term we are working towards International and Global Issues badges. We have been enjoying games from around the world, drawing flags and even trying foods from other countries. We imagined what we would do if we were President of the World for the day: lots of great suggestions, particularly making sweets and chocolate free! We would all vote for that!

This term, we will be learning about endangered animals and climate change, and what we can do to help our environment. We will also be learning about Beaver Scouts from around the world and learning a greeting in another language.

Thanks to our young leader, Christopher, for his help so far this term.

*Adam and Mags*



**Can you help the  
Glebe Wardens**

**with grass cutting,  
weeding and  
guttering?**

**Give them a call**





St Patrick's (Broughshane)

## Rainbow Guide Unit

The Rainbow unit got off to an energetic start for 2025. Our main theme for this term is Be Well, a topic that helps girls explore physical and mental health as well as first aid skills. Early in the year the girls learned about how germs spread on hands and how best to wash them to reduce illness.



We also had a wonderful visit from Energy to Burn, bringing us a fun-filled evening of dancing, games and exercise. It was a great way to lift the 'January Blues' and a reminder that physical activity lifts our mental well-being.

The girls have also participated in international events. In January, we learnt about Chinese or Lunar New Year and made beautiful paper lanterns to celebrate. We also joined girl guides around the world to recognise World Thinking Day. The girls discovered the equivalent of Rainbows in other countries and identified the locations on a giant world map.



We celebrated many badge achievements, including Charlotte for completing her Bronze Award (this requires a minimum of two Theme awards and two interest badges).



We are also proud of Isla for completing her Gold Award, which involves all six theme awards and at least six interest badges (one per theme). Isla also created a video record of her time in Rainbows, learnt and shared the Rainbow Promise in British Sign Language and attended a Brownie meeting. Well done to all

the girls!

You can register by visiting the Girlguiding website – Register a Child: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Lori



## Brownie Guide Unit

Before Christmas, we took part in a Smarties Tube Fundraiser for the church hall and helped to raise £537.20. One of our new Brownies, Charlotte, won James' prize for the most raised- £64.70!



We also had a Christmas party night and attended the cinema event with Rainbows and Guides to see Moana 2. At Christmas, we said goodbye to some of our Brownies who have moved up to the Guides - we wish them all the best.



To kick-start the new term, we planned the activities we wanted to do and enjoyed telling each other about our wonderful Christmas. We learnt how to put a casualty into the recovery position and we thought about our goals for the future. It was fun to see we all had different ideas when we work in our Sixes.



Our young leaders and Laura told us about their international camps and Guiding festivals, and afterwards we had a dance party. We looked at nature, learning about the lifecycle of the butterfly and then thought up our own magical mythical animals, combining our favourite parts.

To celebrate World Thinking Day we played games from Jamaica and the Philippines and looked at Guiding history and how Robert Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes started it all. Olave Baden-Powell, his wife was elected World Chief Guide in 1930



We look forward to the Guiding Broughshane 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party with the Rainbows, Guides and Rangers when we hope to have some fun games.

If you would like to know more about what we do, or you are interested in joining or volunteering please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or talk to one of our leaders.

*Emma, Laura, Jacqueline, Geraldine*

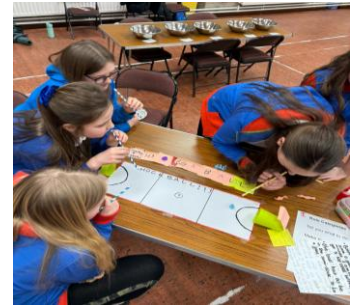


## Guide Unit



We have had a very busy term with new girls moving up from Brownies and two Guides making their Promise.

Our themes this term have been jampacked with exciting activities from Have Adventures, Take Action, Be Well and Know Myself. Games Maker proved to be a huge hit with the girls getting into teams to make their very own board game. It was fascinating to watch their imaginations run wild. Picture Partners was a great activity to work together: pairs worked together to describe a picture for their team-mate to draw. The girls were great at being descriptive and giving positive advice.



World Thinking Day is always a great night with us – ‘flying’ all around the world to play games from, amongst other, the Philippines, Jamaica and Mexico. The girls always get so actively involved in this night and it is a joy to watch.

We are very excited for our big 25th Anniversary of ‘Girlguiding in Broughshane’ party on the 1st March. With Mothering Sunday and Easter just around the corner, we have an exciting few weeks ahead of us.

You can register by visiting the Girlguiding website

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

*Hannah, Emma & Geraldine*

## **Knit, Stitch and Natter**

**Craft Group  
meets on  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays  
in the Stoney Room  
at 7pm**



## Ranger Guide Unit



We had a lovely evening making little singing angels and mini wreaths for the Christmas tree or to give as presents. In December we joined the Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units to watch Moana 2 at the cinema. It was great fun, and we really enjoyed the film. We ended the term by having a games night. Uno was fiercely fought and Cluedo was fun trying to work out who was the murderer.

Returning in January we worked hard to make sure we had a programme for the term. As we are getting into the swing of being Rangers, we decided upon the activities we wanted to lead. Most of us are working towards the Young Leader qualification by volunteering in one of the other units. So, we spent an evening with Geraldine talking through our progress and getting elements signed off.

In February we had a reunion with those Guides and Rangers with whom we went to Switzerland or Yorkshire at a night of celebration at Girlguiding Ulster HQ in Lorne. This gave us an opportunity to catch up and chat about our summer adventures. Going on an international camp has given us new friends and new perspectives and provided adventures we will never forget. We cannot wait for the next one!

At the end of each month, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme groups for Silver and Bronze get together to complete administration and undertake some training for the expedition section. It helps us to build friendships and work as a team. The groups will join other Ranger units from Aghadowey, Ballinderry & Bangor to complete the expedition section in the summer.

We are looking forward to increasing our numbers as the older Guides move up to join the Ranger section.

If you would like to know more about what we do, or you are interested in joining or volunteering please visit

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or talk to one of our leaders.

*Cathy & Geraldine*

## Safeguarding Trust Panel

David Ferguson  
Sandra Adams  
Andrew Kennedy  
Victoria Thompson

<b>Sunday Club</b> (Primary Schoolers) Lyndsay Williamson	<b>Rainbow Guides</b> Lori Hartman Emma Porritt	<b>Beavers</b> Mags Carson
<b>SPY</b>	<b>Brownie Guides</b> Emma Taggart Laura Barr Geraldine Linford	<b>Cubs</b> Chrissy Moffett
<b>Mothers' Union</b> Helen Foster	<b>Guides</b> Hannah Aldridge Geraldine Linford Emma Taggart	<b>Scouts</b> Hilary Arthur
<b>Tots</b> Violet Lucas	<b>Ranger Guides</b> Cathy McCaig Geraldine Linford	<b>Explorers</b> Derek McKillop



## Morning Call

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Informal Worship 10.30am to 11.30am

Tea and toast at 10am

in the Church Hall



<b>Who's Who at St Patrick's</b>	
Rector	Vacant
Honorary Secretary	Julie Thompson
Assistant Secretary & Bookings	James Linford
Honorary Treasurer	Steven Ewing
Church Wardens	(Rector's) Dennis Taylor
	(People's) Tommy Douglas
Glebe Wardens	(Rector's) Steven Young
	(People's) Gavin Mark
Fire Warden	James Linford
Sanctuary Flowers	Beth Clyde
Catering Committee	Suzanne Beckett
Heating	Derek Mills-Westley
Magazine Editor	Geraldine Linford

### **Select Vestry**

Rector, Church Wardens, Glebe Wardens, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Suzanne Beckett, Anne Brownlee, Beth Clyde, Emma Erwin, Geraldine Linford, James Linford, Laura Montgomery, Kathryn McGall, Richard Reade, Vicky Thompson, Stephen Tuff.



**Summer Edition**  
**Articles need to be with**  
**the Editor by**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**  
 geraldine@linford1.net



## Sundays

**Holy Communion:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30am

**Morning Prayer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30am

**Morning Call:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 10:00am  
in the Church Hall with Tea and Coffee

**Family Service:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:30am

Facebook and YouTube Weblinks are available on  
[www.stpatricksbroughshane.com/online-sunday-service](http://www.stpatricksbroughshane.com/online-sunday-service)

Radio: Church Services are broadcast on short wave 27.60 Frequency 27 MHz

## Wednesdays

**Together at Ten:** **Holy Communion (Form1) at 10:00am**  
**With tea/coffee and cake afterwards**  
**in the Stoney Room**

Services will continue to be available on Facebook, YouTube, the website  
and by telephone after 1pm on Sunday on **028 2517 0014**  
(calls are charged at local rate)



***Together at  
Ten***

**Communion &  
Community  
Wednesday  
at 10.00am**