

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

KILLYLEAGH PARISH CHURCH

Autumn 2021 Magazine



**Sunday School, Youth Club &
other activities**

**To re-commence September
or October – hopefully!**

Dear Friends

So, with vaccines protecting us quite well, we're in this period of trying to live as before, but still aware that we have a damaging virus at large, affecting attitudes and freedom to do as we'd like.

Thankfully we've been able to worship together in church and online since Easter. Baptisms, weddings and funerals have taken place in church since then, with a few things happening in the Parish Centre too. But what has taken place has still been different.

We're trying to plan for the forthcoming period, hopeful that plans are realistic, but not 100% certain if we'll be able to, or should, go ahead.

At the time of writing, we're optimistic that Sunday School and Youth Club will resume in the Parish Centre in late Sept or early Oct. See details on pages 8 & 9.

The plan also is to resume early Sunday Holy Communion on 19th September at 9am, and weekly thereafter. This service will not be streamed. Nor will our Wednesday morning Holy Communion and prayers for the sick, which will resume on Oct 6th and then, initially anyway, on the 1st Wednesday each month. If you want a quiet service and are nervous about larger gatherings on Sunday, come to this.

Also in the Autumn, all being well, we'll be having an informal Bible Discussion twice a month in somebody's house, when we will chat about a bible passage – just seeing what we can learn about God from each other. Then enjoy chat and a cuppa. Everyone is welcome. See page 9.

In this issue, the Rector gives his thoughts on Confirmation. There's also information on the special service on 31st Oct when we will remember and give thanks for any from our parish who've died in the past 3 years, especially those who died during COVID without a proper funeral service. You'll find details of our Bible discussion meetings and all the usual features and information.

Please take time to read this magazine and pass it on to friends, family or neighbours.

Special Services	Ps 3 & 5
Service pattern	Page 4
From the Rector	Ps 6 & 7
Confirmation	Page 7
Young members	Ps 8 & 9
Bible Discussion	Page 9
Confirmation	Page 9
Readers' Rota	Page 10
The Registers	Page 10
Prayer	Page 11

Special Services for Autumn

Sunday 26 September – Sunday School Back to Church Sunday / commissioning of leaders / registration

11.00am – as we hopefully resume face to face Sunday School, we commission our leaders for the next year and children and parents move to the hall for registration and getting to know you time.

Sunday 10 October – Confirmation

6.30pm. In order to accommodate family and friends of those being confirmed to attend, this service sadly is not open to anyone. Contact the Rector, if you've no connection to the Confirmation candidates and would still like to attend.

Sunday 17 October – Killyleagh Parish Harvest

11.00am – Harvest Morning Celebrations

6.30pm – Harvest Evening Worship

Sunday 31 October – Service of Thanksgiving & Remembering

11.00am – a time to remember all those loved ones who have died, especially those who have passed away in the last 3 years – see details on page 5.

Sunday 14 November – Remembrance Sunday

11.00am – Traditional Service of Remembrance

2.30 – 2.45pm – Act of Remembrance at War Memorial at the Castle

3.00pm – British Legion Service – to be confirmed.



Home Private Communion

If anyone is unable to get to church, or perhaps still a little apprehensive about going, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, as a one-off, or more regularly, please contact

the Rector. It is planned that these will re-commence in October.

Service Pattern for the next few weeks

You all will be aware our main morning service is now at 11am throughout the year.

Our pre-Covid service pattern is suspended for a while longer, to be reviewed, if and when all COVID restrictions cease. The below is the revised pattern for this period.

1st Sunday	Holy Communion 2 – an abbreviated celebration
2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays	Morning Worship – lasting 35-45 minutes
5th Sunday	Celebration of Wholeness and Healing (no anointing with oil - just yet)
Each Sunday, from 19th September – 9.00am	Holy Communion 1 – a quiet, reflective celebration of Holy Communion, using our older liturgy. Small congregation.
First Wednesday in the month starting on October 6th – 10.30am	Holy Communion 2 with an opportunity to pray by name for anyone who is sick or in any need. A cuppa and chat afterwards in the Parish Centre will resume in October, all being well.

Please note the special services on page 3 of this magazine and look out for notices on Facebook and the church website about these services which will mean the normal pattern is amended

By the way, if you miss Sunday worship, all our 11am services and some others are available to watch any time. Simply search for Killyleagh Parish Church Youtube TV channel.

Sundays School meeting times

11am – 11.45am

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sundays each month

Service of Thanksgiving & Remembering

This year on 31st October, we plan to hold a special service of thanksgiving and remembering for those from our parish who have passed away in the last 3 years. We will also remember the thousands bereaved by COVID.

At the same time 3 years ago, we held a similar service, with the commitment to repeat it at regular intervals. With bereaved families in the past 18 months being restricted in what they could do at the time of the loss of a loved one, and with many prevented from attending funeral services, we felt it was even more important this year to give this opportunity to give thanks and commemorate departed loved ones. We anticipate there may still be some restrictions in place come the end of October, but we hope these will not curtail this important service.

The service will take place (all being well) on 31 October at 11am, the Sunday nearest All Saints and All Souls' Days, when many churches hold services remembering with thanksgiving

those who have died. The tone of the service will naturally be sombre, although there will also be a feel of thankfulness. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for a deceased loved one



and simply spend time together in reflection and prayer.

This is an opportunity for those denied the chance to mourn friends and loved ones at the time of their death to come together with others in a similar position and give thanks to God for having that person in our lives. If you lost a loved one since November 2018, please mention to other family members or one or two friends, who may wish to join you. If there is a large group in your family who want to come, please advise the Rector in advance.

From the Rector

It's a real delight to have 9 young people and 2 adults preparing for Confirmation by the Bishop on 10th October.



Sadly in the past, most young people have opted out of church after confirmation, thinking it's the end of the road in their Christian education and faith development, rather than the start of a renewed life as a fully engaged and involved member of the church.

For some, the decision to be confirmed has not been theirs, rather something they have fallen into because of reaching a certain age, or something they have done because parents or other relatives wanted them to do it.

For me, the most important thing is that the young person **wants** to be confirmed themselves. As I constantly say, in the early Christian church, it was committed adults who **decided for themselves** that they wanted to go through the initiation process of being baptised to start their new life as a follower of Jesus. And it should be the same

for Confirmation, since conversely everyone who has been baptised as an infant has not made that decision themselves.

The underlying meaning of the word 'confirmation' is strengthening, or deepening. The candidates themselves confirm the vows made on their behalf at baptism and God confirms them, or strengthens them in their life of faith, with the laying on of hands by the Bishop.

Confirmation is an important step on the journey of discovery and development for everyone being confirmed, for adults but especially for teenagers. **It must not end there.**

Rather than being a rite of passage, like graduation from school, when the regular contact with school ends, it should be the trigger for greater and more meaningful engagement.

In my eyes, what the young person believes and how much they understand about the doctrines of our church is less important than opening themselves up to the power of the Holy Spirit, letting God be God for them and understanding they are beloved children of God.



Even mature, crusty old Christians can struggle to understand the theology of the Trinity or recite clearly what they believe about creation, so why should we expect teenagers, whose brains are still developing, to be any different.

We shouldn't expect them to have it all sussed. And we should all take on the responsibility of nurturing them and encouraging them in their church membership.

I hope and pray that the young folk, and indeed the adults too, being confirmed on 10th October will continue to play an active role in our parish and the day is a memorable one for them. Every blessing to all of you. Colin

In a more normal year, the Confirmation celebration would have been our morning service to give regular worshippers the opportunity to enjoy the occasion with the candidates. However, so as not to deprive people of being able to worship on Sunday morning due to limited space, and to allow the candidates to have more family and friends, this year the service will be held at 6.30pm. You will of course be able to join the service live online at that time, or at a later date.

Live streaming services

We've been streaming services since Good Friday, including some weddings and funerals, thanks to a team of brilliant young camera/sound technicians, trained by Darren Brown, doing a great job.

Some adults also volunteered to operate the camera. We will be organizing training sessions for them in the latter part of the year. If you'd like to join them and go on the Sunday rota, or be available to film funerals or weddings on other days, contact the Rector or Stewart Poole.

If you haven't yet 'attended' a service online, it's easy to do at any time of the week, as all services streamed live will be available afterwards too. Go to our Youtube channel on your tv, ipad, laptop or smart device. [\(59\) St John the Evangelist Killyleagh Parish Church - YouTube](#)

We've taken on board your feedback, limiting the front-on congregation shots, restricting them to a short time and from a distance. Complete privacy is also given during hymn-singing and Communion. There are also areas in the church where you can be sure you will not be on camera. Ask the church wardens if you want to sit there.

This is a great initiative to bring the message of the Gospel to a wider audience.



Before COVID hit in early Spring 2020, the Sunday School was flourishing, with increasing numbers of children enrolled. Jonny Patterson, our Superintendent, maintained contact with the children in various ways throughout the pandemic, providing online lessons and links to appropriate films. Who can forget Jonny's home-made video lessons, the Harvest video and the online Nativity? If you missed them, they are still available to enjoy on our Youtube channel.

To have had some of the young members involved in co-leading online services during lockdown gave us all a special thrill.

Time has moved on and 7 of our Sunday School members will be leaving and getting confirmed in October. Most of them have been involved for many years, so they will leave a big gap, as will the absence of Superintendent Jonny.

We move now into a transitional and re-building phase, with one or two new leaders and hopefully a whole bunch of new youngsters

becoming members for the first time.

If you know any children between the ages of 4 and 14, in the parish, or indeed in the neighbourhood, we'd love to see them enrolled in Sunday School.

If you are a parent or godparent of a child who has been christened in St John's, remember those promises you made – to bring up your child in the life and faith of the Christian Church. Those promises were made not to the Rector or whoever conducted the service, but in front of God. Bringing children to Sunday School, even if you don't come to the service yourself, is a good way of fulfilling those promises.

The Commissioning of leaders for Sunday School 2021-22 and enrolment for the new year will take place on Sunday 26th September. Please come to the church for 11am. After a short period in the church, parents, children and leaders will adjourn to the Parish Centre to complete registration forms and discuss any issues. Sunday School proper will re-commence on 3rd October.

**Sunday School Back
to Church Sunday:
11am 26 September.**

**To include commissioning of
leaders and registration for new
and existing members**



**Resuming in the Parish
Centre, Thursday 30th
September.**

**Registration Thursday 23rd
September from 6.15pm**

**All primary school aged
children are welcome**, whether
members of the church or not.

This year we will be splitting the
youngsters. So that there is more
space for everyone and to keep
children of a similar age together.

P1-P4 children will come from
6.15 – 7.15.

P5-P7 children will come from
7.30 – 8.30.

We will have additional sports
equipment, such as table tennis
and badminton. Each evening will
be a mix of games, fun activities,
crafts, and sports. Occasionally
there will be interesting guests,
trips out to the park or Delamont
and the chance to hear some
bible stories. The whole emphasis
is on having **FUN**. So tell your
family or friends. If you want
more information, contact Mandy
07979 950564, or the Rector. Or
come to the registration evening
on 23rd September.

Bible Discussion

A big thank you to Dorothy Cranston, who has agreed to host the Autumn Bible Discussion meetings in her home. Keeping the numbers to 6 or 7 means it'll be safer, and less intimidating for anyone. Though as the plan will be to chat informally, learning from each other, the whole of the time together will be very friendly. Of course, finishing with a cuppa and bickie.

The group will meet fortnightly on Tuesday evenings, starting on 28th September. Please contact the Rector or Dorothy (07861 000189) in advance if you'd like to attend. If numbers are more than 7, we'll probably split the group.

It'll be up to the group to decide what passage is discussed. Occasionally, what the bible says about today's issue may be discussed too – issues like remarriage of divorcees in church, same-sex relationships, female church leaders, money and faith.

Everyone is welcome, irrespective of Bible knowledge.

From the Registers (Feb to mid-August)

Holy Baptism

- 24th March – Brodie (son of Steven Shields & Chelsea McAleese)
- 19th May – Layla Lynne (daughter of Jamie Casement & Jody Montgomery)
- 8th July – Reggie (son of Lee McCarroll & Brooke Spratt)
- 8th July – Jessie (daughter of Lee McCarroll & Brooke Spratt)
- 8th July – Penny Rose (daughter of Ian Spratt & Stephanie Woodside)
- 4th August – Alivia Catherine (daughter of Leah Carberry)
- 14th August – Amelia Sarah Olwyn (daughter of Thomas & Sharon McCullough)

Christian Marriage

- 24th June – Andrew Davidson & Judith Wilkinson
- 13th July – Iain Gillespie & Linsey Darling

Sex	Name of Parents	Name of Child	Minister	Date and Place of Birth - Parish, Town, or Street	Date of Baptism and of Age in Years
Mal.	James Gordon	Elizabeth	Gordon	July 24 1880	...
Mal.	Robert Gordon	Christina	Gordon	July 24 1880	...
Mal.	Robert Gordon	Elizabeth	Gordon	July 24 1880	...
Mal.	James Gordon	James	Gordon	July 24 1880	...
Mal.	James Gordon	James	Gordon	July 24 1880	...

Christian Funerals/Burial

- 17th February – Isa-May McFadden
- 29th March – Myron Robina McKeown
- 2nd April – Winston Maguire
- 24th April – Rosaleen Shields (burial in Magheradroll)
- 18th June – Nigel Ringland (burial of ashes)
- 1st July – Clive Bridges

Lesson Readers' Rota September - December

The rota of readers for the next 3 months is below.

If anyone would like to join the rota, please contact the Rector.

- Sep 12 – Rachel Shortall
- Sep 19 – Billy Silcock
- Sept 26 – Sue McCrum
- Oct 10 – Brigeen Henderson
- Oct 17 – Anthea McWilliams
- Oct 17 – Christine Patterson (6.30pm)
- Oct 24 – Sylvia Ward
- Oct 31 – Joyce McCormick
- Nov 14 – Stewart Guthrie
- Nov 21 – Edwina Marr
- Nov 28 – Shonagh Dagher
- Dec 12 – Stewart Poole



Prayer

Of course, we all know the importance of communicating with friends and family. We can't maintain relationships if we don't. Talking with God, listening to him, getting to know him better, opening your heart to him – all these things take place in prayer.

As a parish and as individuals, it is vitally important that prayer is a key activity. Yet we all find it a challenge – sometimes, if not always.

Here's a summary of prayer opportunities in our parish:

- **Praying for the sick / those in need:** at our mid-week Wednesday Holy Communion, we pray by name for those in any kind of need. If you don't attend the service, contact the Rector to include your own name, or that of someone else. Or leave a note with church wardens
- **Email your prayer requests** to the parish prayerline: throughout the COVID crisis, a small team of pray-ers prayed for people as requested. The email facility is still available. Simply email details of your prayer request; communityprayers20@gmail.com
- Come to the **monthly prayer meeting:** this will resume on October 12th and then on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Parish Centre at 7pm for 30 minutes.
- **Prayer couplets:** if anyone wishes to be paired with another parishioner to chat every so often and pray for each other and others, this can be arranged. Contact the Rector.
- **Celebration of Wholeness & Healing:** subject to COVID, if there is a 5th Sunday in a month, we will have a healing service, with the opportunity to be anointed with oil and receive prayer for yourself or someone else at the Communion rails at the end of the service.

Keep Fit

Recently started in the Parish centre on two days each week are Keep Fit sessions, organized by recently qualified instructor, Sarah Jess.

Combining weights, exercises, stretching and movement to music, Sarah will have you fine-tuned and ready for Paris '24 Olympics in no time at all!

Sessions are a fiver and last around an hour, starting at 10am on Tuesdays or on Saturdays at

9am. Males or females welcome.



Just turn up in sports attire and footwear, or if you want more detail, contact Sarah on 07528 614423. Why not come with a friend?

Afghan Refugee Collection

We've all seen the upsetting images from Afghanistan of the chaos caused by the Taliban's second take-over, with many fleeing homes in fear of their lives or freedom. Lorna Hagen McCormick is organising a collection in Killyleagh of things that a refugee to our land might need. Contact her on 07521 554799 if you can donate or want to help. Or the Rector

Parish & Rector contact details

Rectory - (028) 44828231



Mobile – 07925 672340

colin.darling@talktalk.net

www.killyleaghparish.com

www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchkillyleagh

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbKfRG9oXT0_KITfbwOy2Qw

Killyleagh Parish Church Charity Commission NI Reg No. NIC103591