

The Magazine of Agherton Parish Portstewart
The Church of St. John the Baptist



from 10am each Sunday

September / October / November 2022 Edition

#### **THEVOICE**

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### Organising your Wedding



Weddings are very special occasions in the life of any family and in the life of the church. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector **before** confirming arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the church in preparation for marriage. Please contact the office on **Tel: 028 7083 3277.** 

### Ministry to the Sick

Please inform the Rector if parishioners are in hospital, going into hospital, are being transferred or discharged. Please contact the office on **Tel: 028 7083 3277 or the Rectory on 028 7083 2538.** 

### Online Readers Young & Old

We need you! Would you like to record a psalm or a reading in the comfort of your own home for our online broadcasts? It's not one take, you can re-record to make it perfect! If you don't have the equipment, we can help you to record it in the office. To add your name to the rota, contact Leisa in the office on **028 7083 3277**.



### Parish Nurses

If you would like to confidentially speak to one of the Parish Nurses, please contact the office on **Tel: 028 7083 3277 (9am-1pm)** to request a return call and Noelle or Eileen will get in contact with you.

The office email has been changed - please use this email aghertonoffice@gmail.com



## THE RECTOR WRITES... By Revd Malcolm

The title of this issue of the voice is "More to unlock".

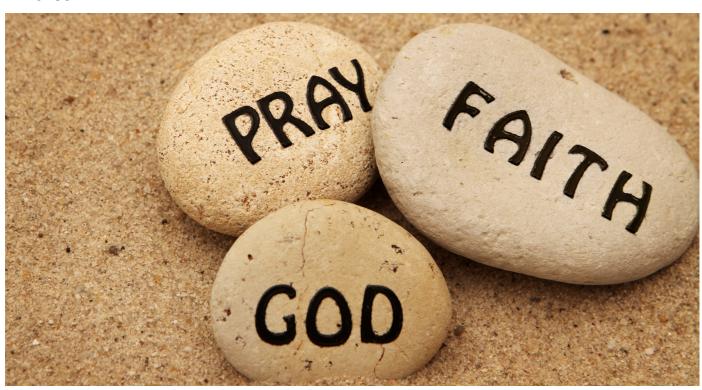
A very positive message for us as individuals and as a church family. Every new season will bring new challenges and new opportunities to grow in faith. Pages 8 and 9 show the diversity of our church in the organisations that meet under the umbrella of the church family. Each organisation has a challenge to unlock something new for its members – there is definitely "more to unlock"! As a church at worship, we have "more to unlock" as we spend time learning about prayer and creation and remembrance over the next three months. Page 10 gives an introduction to the "unlock" opportunities which will be happening each Sunday from 10-11am - so please come along to see what new part of your Christian journey can be "unlocked".

It is also important that as individuals we see that we have "more to unlock". The Christian journey is never complete but should be a process of growing closer to God and growing deeper in faith. Nadia Bolz-Weber wrote "Getting closer to God might mean getting told to love someone I don't even like, or to give away even more of my money. It might mean letting some idea or dream that is dear to me get ripped away" This expresses for me the challenge of my Christian journey. The challenge to continually grow closer to God and strive to see where in my life I have "more to unlock".

As the new season begins we take a moment to pray and reflect on these words from 1 Peter.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." – 1 Peter 5:6-7. Let us humbly reflect we have **"more to unlock"**.

#### Malcolm



#### MEN'S SOCIETY DAY TRIP



A group of men from Agherton Men's Society had a very enjoyable trip to Londonderry on Monday 31st May. We visited the Guildhall, the Tower Museum and then had a lovely lunch in Badgers. After that we visited the Cathedral before taking the train home. A great day was had by all.



### HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear all, Carol and I really appreciated the prayerful support throughout our time at the London Neurological Hospital. This picture was taken in Queens Square, at the hospital, on the day we left the hospital. The photograph shows our real joy and relief that the operation was over and successful. Our thanks to all the medical teams for all their hard work and dedication and the Agherton family for your prayers. Thank you.

Malcolm and Carol.

Prayer should always be our first response to every situation - Joyce Mayers



"I'm updating the 'rota notice-board' rota, rota... do I see a hand...?'



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."

#### THE PARISH REGISTERS

### CHRISTIAN BURIAL

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"

31 May Robert Brown 8 Enterprise Parade, Portstewart

01 June Annie Hemphill 2 Parklea, Portstewart

01 Aug Roy Thompson Tullaghmurry Fold, Portstewart

Sympathy is extended to all who have lost loved ones in recent times.

#### HOLY BAPTISM

"And He took them in his arms and blessed them "

03 July Mollie McCorkell 8 Shellhill Court, Coleraine



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

"If sold my house and my car, had a big car boot sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into Heaven?" the teacher asked her Sunday School class. "No!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into Heaven?" Again, the answer was "No!"

"Well", she continued, "then how can I get into Heaven?" A five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead first!"

DON'T FORGET
SUNDAY SURFERS
STARTS BACK ON
SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER
COME TO CHURCH FIRST AT
10.00AM FOR SNACKS

### CONGRATULATIONS

We celebrate with our Parish Reader Mr Brian Shaw and his wife Naomi on the baptism of their son Isaac Shaw Here he is with his parents Brian and Naomi and big brother Thomas.



# LOOKING FORWARD TO THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING THANKING GOD FOR OUR BLESSINGS



Our winter barley ripened quickly this year, and soon the combine harvesters were rolling. As the first trailer load of grain came into the shed, I ran my hands through the golden grains, offering a short prayer of thankfulness as I savoured the smell of fresh cut barley. It was a good harvest.

I've often reflected on the Old Testament festival of the Firstfruits, where the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the spring harvest to God (Leviticus 23:9-14). I think this act required great faith, as they trusted God for a fruitful harvest to come, something that was far from certain, given their utter dependence on the weather.

I'm not sure about you, but I'm always up for giving thanks after the event. I'll sing 'Come ye thankful people come' and rejoice that "all is safely gathered in", but am I able to trust with anticipation for what is yet to come?

The festival of the Firstfruits reminded God's people that everything they had came from Him. I am reminded that I must learn (and relearn) to trust in God, who has proven His faithfulness to me, over and over again. Perhaps right now, as a church community or an individual, you're waiting for a certain event, standing on the cusp of a new initiative, praying for a certain outcome or anticipating a long-held vision becoming reality. Let's all keep trusting that whatever the challenge, however things turn out, irrespective of what we anticipate, God is going before us and has secured the Firstfruits of an even greater harvest through Jesus, as He rose from the dead.

Just as the grain offering to God in the Old Testament anticipated a harvest to come, Paul reminds us that Jesus' victory anticipates an even greater bodily resurrection and eternal peace (1 Corinthians 15:20-22). As we continue our journey with Jesus through the challenges of each day, let's do so with a deepening faith and trust. In the meantime, bring on the harvest – I'll see you on the other side!

## **→ CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE - SUNDAY 26TH JUNE**













### PARISH GROUPS GET GOING ....

September is the month for all of the Agherton Parish Church Groups to start up again. We have a full programme this year and look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer break. Little Surfers are always on the look out for helpers in both the kitchen and with the little ones, so if you can spare an hour on a Friday, please let Leisa in the office know. For any further information contact the office on 028 7083 3277 between 9am and 1pm, Monday - Thursday.

# **Contemplative Prayer**

Takes place on the 4th Monday of the month at 8pm in Agherton Parish Centre

For more information contact Wendy Floyd 028 7083 2694



# **Agherton Parish Church Choir**

Choir practice takes place on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm in Agherton Parish Church

For more information contact Orreen Yates 028 7083 2204



### **Craft Club**

Takes place on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Agherton Parish Centre

For more information contact Olive Hagan 028 7032 6508



# **Gardening Club**

Takes place on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in Agherton Parish Centre

For more information contact the parish office 028 7083 3277



### **Knit and Natter**

Takes place on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm in Agherton Parish Centre
For more information contact the parish office 028 7083 3277



### **Little Surfers Parent and Toddlers**

Takes place Fridays in term time 10am-11.30am in Agherton Parish Centre



Volunteers always welcome.

For more information contact the parish office 028 7083 3277

# **Men's Society**

Takes place on the third Monday of the month at 8pm in Agherton Parish Centre

For more information contact the parish office 028 7083 3277



### **Mothers' Union**

Takes place on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8pm in Agherton Parish Centre

For more information contact Rosemary Moore 07751018920



## **Prayer Group**

Takes place on the second Tuesday of the month at 3pm in Agherton Parish Church

For more information contact the parish office 028 7083 3277



# **Sunday Surfers**

Takes place on Sunday mornings starts from 10am in church for snacks.

For more information contact Jacqui Clark 028 7083 6972



# Women's Fellowship

Takes place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Agherton Parish Centre

For more information contact Olive Hagan 028 7032 6508





Special Guest Speakers each week Every Sunday 10am - 11am (coffee/scones/friends)

SEPTEMBER - UNLOCKING PRAYER
OCTOBER - UNLOCKING CREATION
NOVEMBER - UNLOCKING REMEMBRANCE

Welcome to our UNLOCK Autumn programme, which starts in September. Over the next few months we will be focusing on unlocking various topics. We have lined up some great guest speakers who will give an informal talk from 10.30am-10.50am, and there will be an opportunity to interact with each speaker over a cup of coffee and a scone. Our first speaker on 4th September is Jennifer Gault, Chaplain in Altnagelvin Area hospital and Ministerial student with the Methodist Church in Ireland.

# **Agherton Walking Group**

1st Wednesday of each month at 11.30am

Refresh your mind, body and soul

Holy Communion 10.30am Tea and Scones 11.00am
Walking Group (with the Parish Nurses) 11.30am
Meet at the church, leaving at 11.30am sharp.

Walking for 30 minutes a day or more is a great way to improve or maintain vour overall health

## **SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER WORSHIP**

## **SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES - 11AM**

Sunday 18th Sept (Trinity 14) BBC Radio Ulster Be in church for 9.30am

Sunday 25th Sept (Trinity 15).....Family Service

## **OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES - 11AM**

## **NOVEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES - 11AM**

#### MID-WEEK HOLY COMMUNION

Every Wednesday at 10.30am followed by tea and scones

#### **\*ORDINATION - EVERYONE WELCOME**

The ordination of Deacon Intern, Andrew Neill, will take place in Lisburn Cathedral on Sunday 11th September at 3.30pm

Online services every Sunday from 9am

### COMMUNITY PAGE



# BBC RADIO ULSTER MORNING SERVICE

LIVE from Agherton 18th September We need a full attendance at church to showcase our wonderful congregational singing as our voices carry through the province on Radio Ulster. Be in church at 9.30am



# O CHURCHES FRIENDSHIP GROUP

#### 20th October 9.30am - 4pm

The Churches Friendship Group is holding a quiet retreat at Corrymeela Centre, where Brother David Jardine will be speaking.

For more information contact Wendy Floyd on 028 7083 2694



# WILL YOU ORGANISE A COFFEE MORNING?

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest annual fundraising event, held to support people living with cancer. People all over the UK either host or attend a Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan.

The official date is Friday 30th September, but a coffee morning to support MacMillan can be held at any time. From a group in the garden, sharing a coffee over a screen or a takeaway cake and cuppa, you can hold yours however you like.

Find out more at:

https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk

### **REMEMBRANCE**



Have you seen the film 'Saving Private Ryan'? The first 20 minutes of the film is a powerful account of war, portraying the first landing craft arriving at the Normandy beaches on D Day. The film successfully brings to life the events of that day, as a vivid act of remembrance.

From a biblical perspective, the word remembrance means making present a past reality, so that we can benefit from it today. On Remembrance Sunday we think about those who have given their lives in wars over the years, as well as those who continue to grieve over their lost loved ones. We want to make their sacrifice in past conflicts real for us today, so that we can engage with the horror of war and those enduring suffering today.

It involves dealing with the why question in the face of relentless tragedies and injustices: why does God allow such suffering to take place? One of the great themes of the Scriptures is that God identifies with the suffering. But the Christian faith goes beyond this! It affirms that in Jesus, God's Son, divinity became involved in suffering and death on the cross. It is at Calvary that we see how God Himself knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unprovoked attack. I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?' (John Stott).

Although we don't fully understand the reason why God allows evil and suffering to continue, we do know what the reason isn't! It can't be that He doesn't love us! God so loved us and hates suffering that He was willing to come down and get involved in our hurting world. This can be a source of real strength on such an occasion.

However, how can we ensure that those who have given their lives are truly honoured, not forgetting those who are risking their lives in conflicts today? An appropriate response is to actively work and pray for justice in our world, especially where there is inequality and conflict. In a divided world we are also called to renew our efforts to work for peace. We need to be serious about being peacemakers, especially where it involves those close to us. As Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God' (Matt 5:9).

### **DECTORS ROTA**



|      |                  | - Copteringer    |                              |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
|      | Reading          | Gospel           | Prayers                      |
| 4th  | Diana Hall       | Katy Ollerenshaw | Rosemary<br>Peters-Gallagher |
| 11th | Frances Morrison | Beryl Dobbs      | Frank Dobbs                  |
| 18th | BBC Radio Ulster | BBC Radio Ulster | BBC Radio Ulster             |
| 25th | Sunday Surfer    | Sunday Surfer    | Sunday Surfer                |

September

| October |                |                   |               |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
|         | Reading        | Gospel            | Prayers       |
| 2nd     | Ivan Stacey    | Olive Hagan       | Revd Malcolm  |
| 9th     | Rosemary Ridge | Andi Regan Murphy | Dlana Hall    |
| 16th    | Janet Peden    | Eleanor Anderson  | Wendy Floyd   |
| 23rd    | Sunday Surfer  | Sunday Surfer     | Sunday Surfer |
| 30th    | Mary Sweetnam  | Noel Martin       | Wilf Ridge    |

| November |                  |               |                              |
|----------|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
|          | Reading          | Gospel        | Prayers                      |
| 6th      | Frances Morrison | Beryl Dobbs   | Revd Malcolm                 |
| 13th     | Judith Hough     | Janet Peden   | Liz Hanlon                   |
| 20th     | Ivan Stacey      | Rae Scott     | Rosemary Peters<br>Gallagher |
| 27th     | Sunday Surfer    | Sunday Surfer | Sunday Surfer                |

If you would like to be added on to our readers rota, please contact Leisa in the office on 028 7083 3277 or email aghertonoffice@gmail.com

### **→ FLOWER ARRANGING**

### FLORAL DONATIONS

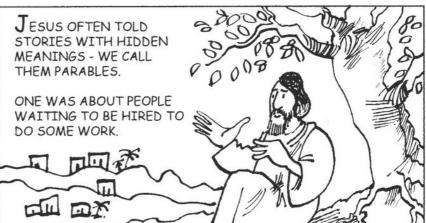
|          | September           |      | September                             |
|----------|---------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 4th      | Clara Crozier       | 4th  | Desi & Sue Morgan                     |
| 11th     | Loraine Francis     | 11th | Liz Hanlon                            |
| 18th     | Vera Graham         | 18th | Orreen Yates                          |
| 25th     | Paul Girvan         | 25th | Rosemary Stacey                       |
|          | October             |      | October                               |
| 2nd      | Jane Beggs          | 2nd  | Rhona Nicholl                         |
| 9th      | Harvest Decorations | Pe   | Penny Hemphill                        |
| 16th     | Barbara Compton     | 9th  | Harvest Decorations                   |
| 23rd     | Andi Regan-Murphy   | 16th | Eileen Ward                           |
| 30th     | Marlene Smyth       | 23rd | Kerri-Ann McLaughlin<br>Letty Doherty |
|          |                     | 30th | Rev M Ferry                           |
| November |                     |      | November                              |
| 6th      | Jane Beggs          | 6th  | Joan & Hubert Gough                   |
| 13th     | Vera Graham         | 13th | Carol Kay                             |
| 20th     | Maureen Gibson      | 20th | David & Maureen Gibson                |
| 27th     | Rae Scott           | 27th | Rae Scott                             |

Members of Agherton Mother's Union who attended the Flower Festival at Christ Church, Castlerock on 28th May, where the theme was "Lord, for the years".



#### CHILDREN'S PAGE





A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.

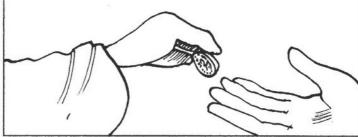




HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.



THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY, THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET





BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.

JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST"

- IT'S A HARD PARABLE!



see Matthew 20:1-16



### WHO'S WHO IN AGHERTON PARISH

#### **RECTOR**

Revd Malcolm R. K. Ferry The Rectory, 59 Strand Road, **Portstewart** 

T: 028 7083 2538

E: aghertonoffice@gmail.com

Day Off: Monday

#### **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

Leisa Duffy Mon-Fri 9am-1pm T. 028 7083 3277 E. aghertonoffice@gmail.com

#### **CHURCHWARDENS**

Rector's - John Lindsay People's - Alison Huffington

**SACRISTAN** - Mrs D. Hall

#### HON. SECRETARY

Maureen Glover 028 7083 3277

#### HON. TREASURER

Rosemary Peters-Gallagher 028 7083 3277

#### **GLEBEWARDENS**

Rector's - David Moore People's - Danny Platt

**SEXTON** Derek Scott

#### **SELECT VESTRY**

Rector, Churchwardens, Glebewardens, Frank Dobbs, Wendy Floyd, Rosemary Peters-Gallagher, Maureen Glover, Paul Girvan, Alicean Handforth, Garry Huffington, John Lindsay, Heather Lockhart, Wilf Ridge, Rae Scott.

#### LAY PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Frank Dobbs (Outreach Diocesan Reader), Brian Shaw (Outreach Diocesan Reader), Wendy Floyd (Parish Reader & Parish Visitor), Wilf Ridge (Office Manager), Jacqui Clark (Sunday Surfers Co-ordinator)

#### PAROCHIAL NOMINATORS

Frank Dobbs, Wendy Floyd, Paul Girvan, Rae Scott

#### SUPPLEMENTAL NOMINATORS

Kim Gillan, Rosemary Peters-Gallagher, David Moore, Danny Platt

#### **DIOCESAN SYNODSPEOPLE**

Frank Dobbs, Maureen Glover

#### SUPPLEMENTAL SYNODSPEOPLE

Wendy Floyd, Noel Martin

**ORGANIST** - Louis Fields louisfields13@hotmail.co.uk

#### THE VOICE TEAM

Rector, Alicean Handforth (Editorial);



### THE BISHOP OF YEI AND MAMA AGNES



We had the great privilege of hosting the Bishop of Yei, Levi and his wife Mama Agnes on their first visit to Ireland. They connected with many of our parishioners and Mothers' Union members at a gathering in the church on 11th August where they shared updates about their link parish and life in South Sudan and the important work of the Mothers' Union there. They were then taken on a tour of Portstewart Primary School, followed by a walk along Portstewart Stand. They gave thanks for the prayer and financial support that has been shown by our parish over the years. We all enjoyed connecting with the new Bishop of Yei and his wife and we will continue to pray for them and the people of South Sudan.

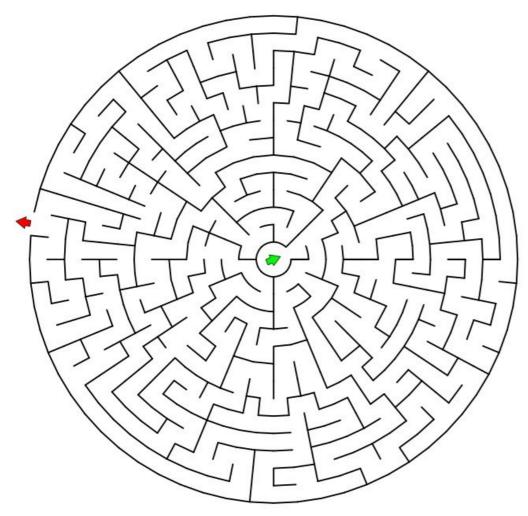
#### SAFEGUARDING TRUST

In accordance with the recommendations in "Safeguarding Trust, the Church of Ireland Code of Good Practice for Ministry with Children" a Parish Panel has been appointed to implement some of the responsibilities identified in the Code. These include:

- Interviewing persons willing to serve as workers in the parish
- Advising workers on their responsibilities in respect of the Code
- Being an immediate contact point for workers when a suspicion, complaint or allegation of child abuse is made about a worker with children on parish premises or in a parochial organisation, in accordance with the procedures set out in these guidelines
- Advising the Select Vestry in respect of its responsibilities

The Parish Panel Members are: Revd Malcolm R.K. Ferry (Rector), Mrs Maureen Glover (Secretary), Mrs Vera Graham (Training), Mrs Lorraine Gamble, Mrs Jacqui Clark.

### **THE BACK PAGE**





# Divine Illustration

A teacher was observing her classroom of young children while they drew. As she came to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher said gently, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, the girl replied with perfect composure: "They will in a minute."

# CG ELECTRICAL SERVICES

Electrical Installation & Maintenance Contractors

Proprietor Campbell Guy 208 Seacon Road, Ballymoney BT53 6PZ

M: 07725 986 082 cgelectricalservices@mail.com



10 Kingarrif Road, Ballymoney

T: 028 2075 1118 M: 07780 683 076 W. I. Paul BDS (QUB) Dental Surgeon

19 Central Avenue Portstewart BT55 7BP

T: 028 7083 4555

#### AGHERTON PARISH OFFICE

19 Church Street, Portstewart BT55 7AH
Tel: 028 7083 3277 Email: aghertonoffice@gmail.com
www.agherton.com
Office Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm

