



Newtownards, St Mark– 5 December

Rector: Chris Matchett, **Curate:** Peter Hilton

As part of building and rebuilding we are looking at 3 aspects of Church life:

Welcome

- As we reform our Sunday worship pattern, please pray for wisdom for our clergy and leaders, patience as a church family, and a growing desire to see new people join with us to worship, especially those in the 30-40 age group.

Discipleship

- Give thanks for growth in our children's and youth ministry during lockdown. Please pray for our new Youth Fellowship who meet weekly and are following Youth Alpha.
- Give thanks for our Thursday night Bible Study and small group gathering who began meeting over Zoom during the pandemic. Pray for a growing desire among church members to meet in small groups to study the scriptures and walk the road of discipleship together.
- We are thankful for the faithful and generous giving of church members during lockdown. As we continue to expand and develop our ministry, pray for the provision that will allow this to happen.

Mission

- Give thanks for the reopening of Christ Church, Ardkeen, and the ministry of our Diocesan Reader, Melanie Houston, who leads worship and preaches each Sunday. Pray for continued growth within the congregation, and that the church would find open doors as they reach out to their community.
- Give thanks for the witness of the Glen Community Church, and the new West Winds Community Church in our parish. Pray for God's direction and provision for both church plants, and for Revd Stephen Doherty, Paul Hawkins and the teams of leaders and helpers at each.
- Give thanks that we are seeing people coming to faith through Christianity Explored, Alpha and Youth Alpha courses. Pray for God's Spirit to continue to be at work, igniting and building saving faith in Jesus Christ.

Killough Outreach – 12 December

Leader: Sarah Irwin

- Please pray for each child, young person and family that we are connected with, and that they will feel God's presence with them.
- We give thanks for our volunteers as without them, we couldn't run our programmes. Please pray for more volunteers so that we can continue to grow our ministry in Killough.
- Pray for the Kids Club (Wednesday evenings), Youth Club (Friday evenings) and Parents and Tots group (Thursday mornings). We pray that those attending will experience God for themselves and begin their journeys with him.

Christmas in our parishes – 19 December

- Holy Spirit, renew among us a sense of worship and wonder as we re-tell the Christmas story. May we incarnate Jesus in our families and communities, pointing them to the 'Saviour who is Christ the Lord'.
- We pray that many would attend Christmas services throughout the diocese and rediscover the joy of worshipping together.
- We give thanks for all those in our churches who have shared their time and talents to allow worship to continue safely and creatively in the past year.
- We pray for stamina and grace for our clergy and leaders in this very busy season.

Saintfield – 26 December

Rector: Chris Pollock

- For all NHS staff from Saintfield who this year have offered their best to all who have been cared for in Hospital, Health Centres and in the community. That they may know our gratitude for all they have given to us.
- For those in Saintfield for whom 2021 has been a sad year. That they may sense God's peace, healing and light as they move into 2022.
- For all in Church Leadership in Saintfield who after Advent and Christmas need time to relax and recharge for 2022 and its challenges.
- For the Saintfield community in which we live and witness. That Saintfield Parish may reveal the true light of Jesus and his love for all.

Thank you for praying