



St. Augustine's Church  
February 2026 Magazine

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**The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

## The Rector writes .....

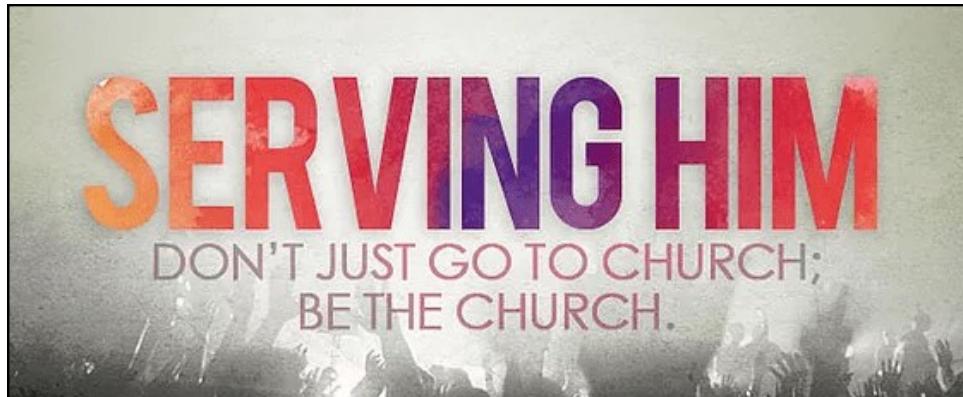
During the Christmas and new year season it was a real privilege to welcome so many people to church. It is so good to see the congregation in such good heart during this festive time. It was also great to engage with some people who are either returning to us or considering joining our congregation and I do hope they will feel a very special St Augustine's welcome when they come among us. I always reflect on a particular experience I had in a church about 15 years ago, where I felt anything but welcome and, the chances are, I will not go back there. It can be a brave enough decision to come to church for the first time or even return to church after a time away. For anyone coming through the church door welcome is crucial, and I am pleased to say that we are good at it.



As we begin February, we find a month which is packed with lots of opportunity to engage in fellowship and worship partly because our Christian pilgrimage this month brings us to **Ash Wednesday** which, of course, begins the **season of Lent**. It has come upon us early this year and we change gears accordingly with the introduction of our Lenten series on a **Wednesday evening at 7.45pm**. This is a season to reflect upon our relationship with the Lord and to really identify with Him through His wilderness experience and we build in intensity as **Holy Week** eventually comes around at the end of March. Please consider coming along for these short informal services on Wednesday evenings.

Also worth a special mention in February is our last **Heritage Series** talk, which falls on **Thursday 12th February**. Mr Ken McCormick will be returning to speak on the **Great Ordnance Survey** along with music. This has been a magnificent programme of heritage and history of our local surroundings. We are immensely grateful to Hazel for organising the series and also very grateful to those who came to speak. The series was sponsored by the **Heritage Animation and Visitor Servicing Grant from Derry City and Strabane District Council**.

I was delighted to commission **Megan as a Parish Reader** in January. All our readers have an important ministry within St Augustine's and I was proud of Megan not only as her dad but also as a pastor seeing a young Christian with a desire to be more involved in the worshipping life of the church. If anyone else feels called to any kind of ministry within God's church, be it 'up at the front', on the counting team, catering ministry, pastoral ministry, youth ministry, music ministry, the streaming team (or anything else!) then please come and talk to me.



The **Confirmation Day this year for our group is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February**. It is very important that we avail of this opportunity as well as attending on a weekly basis especially now that the date is drawing close. Noel and Gordon will provide more details, but I would strongly encourage the young people who are considering confirmation this year to engage.

Our usual schedule continues during February including LEAH, Church Café, Tuesday morning Holy Communion, Luminare and, most importantly, morning worship each Sunday morning. Please support and engage with your church family as much as you can and join us as we lift high the name of the Lord in this place.

With every blessing

Rev'd Nigel

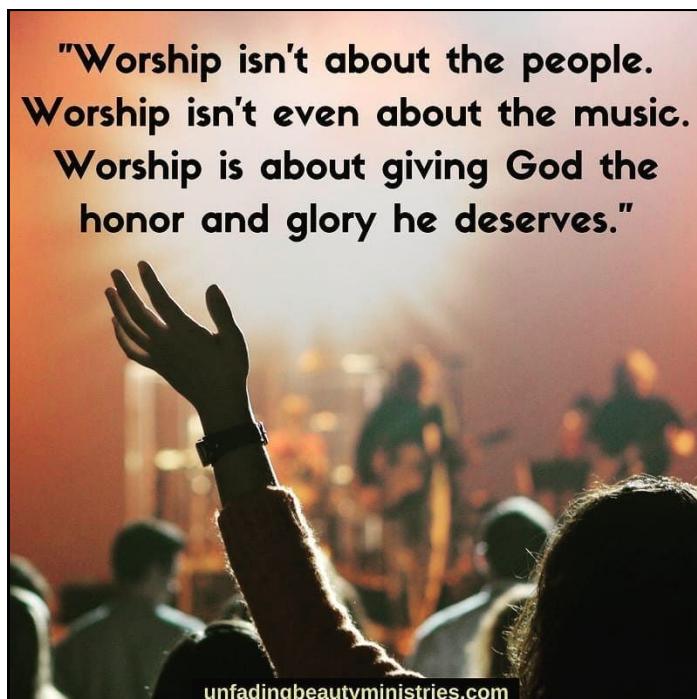
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*"Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." – Joel 2:13*

## A WORD ON WORSHIP FOR 2026 (article by Jonathan Edwards)

Throughout the psalms, we are continually reminded how good it is to worship God. In Psalm 84:10, the psalmist says that he would rather spend a single day in the presence of God than a thousand anywhere else! Our verses today remind us of the importance of worshipping God throughout the day. Worship needs to be woven into the fabric of our lives. We can't do it occasionally or half-heartedly. It needs to claim the best of our energy and attention.

Worship is of such huge importance because it needs to affect absolutely every aspect of life. The thought of worship being confined to a couple of hours in church once a week is completely foreign to the Bible. When we worship, we declare the greatness of God and seek to bring our lives into line with his will. One of the most comprehensive definitions of worship was provided by William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury during the second world war. He wrote: ***"To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."*** Those challenging words demand very careful reflection, because all too easily what we do in church can be cheapened. Whatever style of worship we are used to, it is so easy for it to become a performance which we judge by our own particular musical preferences. Worship needs to be focused entirely on God. It is very easy for us to focus instead on the people who lead us and our reactions to their gifts and idiosyncrasies.



True worship of the living God brings us to life in a way that nothing else can, so we need to make sure it becomes increasingly central to our lives, however busy we happen to be.

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Due to a very wet weather forecast our prayer walk for Christian Unity became an indoor event in **Carlisle Road Methodist Church hall**.

Notwithstanding that, there was unity of purpose and prayer in the sharing of some scriptures and short reflections. Not only did we follow the official resource for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, but we also prayed together for local churches, Alexander House, the Courts, the Family Justice Centre and the Fountain area. The themes were –

- Our call to unity
- Bearing with one another in love
- The bond of peace
- Called to One Hope
- One faith, one baptism
- One God over all
- Christ's Gifts



Thanks to the volunteers of Carlisle Road Methodist for providing the refreshment, and thanks to everyone who supported this important annual event.

## **SEXTON'S COTTAGE**

At long last, the contractor has been appointed and hopefully work is about to start (if it hasn't already!). You will appreciate the vast amount of time and effort that has gone into this scheme. I think at this stage Drew feels like it has taken over a goodly portion of his life!

The whole idea behind this renovation is two-fold. One is to protect and support the valuable heritage on this site, and the other is to protect our own asset which, until now, had fallen into a state of significant disrepair. Huge thanks to the working group, especially Drew, Alwyn and our advisor, Peter Kelly plus our quantity surveyor and architect.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The Safeguarding Panel continues to meet regularly. Remember if there are any safeguarding concerns, they should be shared with Mrs Irene White, Mr Marshall Kilgore or the Rector.

There is a comprehensive suite of Safeguarding and Health & Safety Policies which are available in hard copy, upon request.

## REVISION OF THE LIST OF GENERAL VESTRYMEN

The register of general vestrymen is a flowery way to talk about a list of parish members. If you consider yourself to be a member of St Augustine's then it is very important that your name is on this list. It is also important that the list contains accurate information, so please ask yourself these questions and take any action that you think is required –

- Am I sure my name is on the list?
- Have any of my details changed – my address, mobile phone number etc.?
- Did I ever sign a GDPR consent form?
- Are my weekly / monthly contributions up to date?
- Do I have a free will offering number?
- Do I pay tax and, if so, could I help the church even more by signing up for gift aid? (Church gets extra on my offering and it would cost me just the same)



## FINANCE

Rev'd Nigel has highlighted the revision of the register of general vestrymen, and I think it would be right for me to emphasise the importance of regular contributions and gift aid if you possibly can.

Everyone's household income has had a fair squeeze in the last couple of years and the cost of living has rocketed. That's no different for the church. Our bills have also had the same hike, so every penny counts in terms of what we spend, and every penny counts in terms of what you give. Giving from the congregation is the main portion of the church income and it is vital that this would remain at least in line with inflation. If you can, please take a look at what you give and consider if you could spare any more to bridge any inflationary gap since you last reviewed your financial giving.

**The Bishop's Appeal** for 2025 raised £430 which is more than the previous years amount of £290.

Drew White (Treasurer)

## THE COMMISSIONING OF MEGAN CAIRNS

Our **Sunday Family Service on 18th January** included a commissioning service for Megan Cairns as a new Parish Reader as well as an Affirmation of the ministries of our other parish readers.



(Alison, Matthew, Megan, Rev'd Nigel)



Also in the congregation were some of Megan's friends including Matthew Spratt (above) who completed the readers course with Megan and is also studying in Belfast. Rev'd Ivan Dinsmore commissioned Matthew at the end of last year.

## FEBRUARY 2026

DATE	BIBLE READING	TITLE
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Psalm 74	Up, back, forward
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Jeremiah 6: 1 – 15	Comfort or challenge ?
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Jeremiah 6: 16 – 20	Ask
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Jeremiah 7: 1 – 20	Hollow actions
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Jeremiah 7: 21 – 29	True worship
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Jeremiah 8: 18 – 19: 9	Culture shock
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Jeremiah 10	Maker of all things
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Psalm 75	Heads down , eyes up
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 11: 1 – 19	Believing without seeing
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 11: 20 – 31	Family of faith
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 11: 32 – 40	Redefining faith
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 12: 1 – 13	A fixed focus
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 12: 14 – 29	Now or forever ?
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Hebrews 14	Loose ends
15 <sup>th</sup> February	Psalm 76	Same God !
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 42: 1 – 24	Tears for the years
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 42: 25 – 38	Everything is against me
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 43	Mercy, mercy ,mercy
19 February	Genesis 44	More than meets the eye
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 45: 1 -15	Faithful in the dark
21 <sup>st</sup> February	Genesis 46: 1 – 7, 28 – 34	No boundaries
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Psalm 77	Praying our pain
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Genesis 47: 1 – 10	Indiscriminate blessing
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 47: 11 – 27	Wise leadership
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 47: 28 – 48: 22	Keep the faith
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 49: 1 – 28	The Lion King
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 49: 29 – 50: 14	Tears and hope
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Genesis 50: 15 – 26	Whose story ?

## SALT GROUP LUNCH AT SHIPQUAY HOTEL - JANUARY 2026



The next meeting of our SALT group will be on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm** in the Canon Howe room. I will be sharing some photos and memories from my trip to New Zealand in November. Our March meeting will be on the **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.** (Deirdre)

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

This year's World Day of Prayer will take place on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in First Derry Presbyterian Church.**

This year's service has been written by the women of Nigeria and the theme is taken from the **Gospel of Matthew 11: 28 – 30 ----"I will give you rest, come."** Please consider joining us that night. The service is open to all and everyone is very welcome.

Many thanks  
Deirdre  
(Foyle Area Branch Secretary)



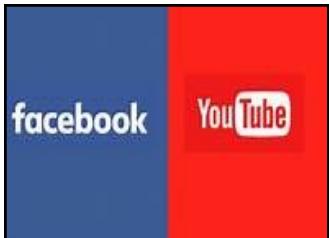
## CHURCH EVENTS - FEBRUARY

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion 2 Kidzklub & STAY
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	6:30pm	Zoom Prayer Meeting
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	11.30am 12.30pm	Holy Communion 1 (in the Church) LEAH Lunch (Please let us know if you are coming along)
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Canon Howe Room)
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm	Men's Club, Lower Lecture Hall, First Derry
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Luminare Presents
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>The Second Sunday before Lent</b> Morning Prayer with a welcome into the congregation of those who have been recently baptised. Kidzklub & STAY
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting on Zoom
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion 1
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2:00pm 7.30pm	SALT Choir Rehearsal – Canon Howe Room
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.30pm	Heritage Talk (Church) 'The Great Ordnance Survey' with music
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Luminare Presents

*"Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." – Joel 2:13*

## CHURCH EVENTS - FEBRUARY

<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>The Sunday before Lent</b> Morning Prayer Kidzklub & STAY closed for half term
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion 1
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.00pm 7.45pm	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Choir Rehearsal Ash Wednesday Penitential Service (Church)
<b>Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb</b>	<b>11.00am</b>  <b>3:00pm</b>	<b>The First Sunday in Lent</b> Morning Prayer Kidzklub & STAY  Altnagelvin Renal Support Unit Bi-annual Remembrance Service
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	6.30pm	Prayer Meeting on Zoom
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.30am	Holy Communion 1
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	7.00pm 7.45pm	Diocesan Council  Choir Rehearsal  Mid-Week Lenten Service
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Confirmation Day (Christ Church Limavady)  Church Café
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>The Second Sunday in Lent</b> Holy Communion Kidzklub & STAY



*All Sunday Services are livestreamed to our  
Youtube and Facebook channels*

*“Rend your heart and not your garments . Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.” – Joel 2:13*

# DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION DAYS

LETTERKENNY- 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY

LIMAVADY - 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY



## **Date and Locations:**

Saturday 21st February 2026 in Conwal Church Halls, Letterkenny

Saturday 28th February 2026 in Christ Church Halls, Limavady

**Time:** Doors open at 11am with registration and games, please be there by 11.25am

Programme from 11.30am - 3pm

**Cost:** Free

**Wear:** Casual clothes, a coat is suggested if we do games outside

**Food:** All food provided, please ensure all dietary requirements are mentioned

**Transport:** Please arrange with your own parish

We would recommend that each person brings their own Bible with them.

Please note all young people must attend with their own group and leaders. Check with your Rector which date your group is booking.

Closing date for bookings is 13<sup>th</sup> February for Letterkenny and 20<sup>th</sup> February for Limavady.

Scan the QR code for consent form





28th - 30th March 2025  
Gartan Outdoor Education Centre

We're excited to announce the DRY weekend this year will be held in Gartan Outdoor Education Centre on the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

This is open to any young person in our diocese who is of secondary school age, and we'll be spending time together exploring a theme from the Bible in our teaching time and having a blast with some outdoor activities in the centre.

Closing date for bookings is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and places are booked on a first come basis.

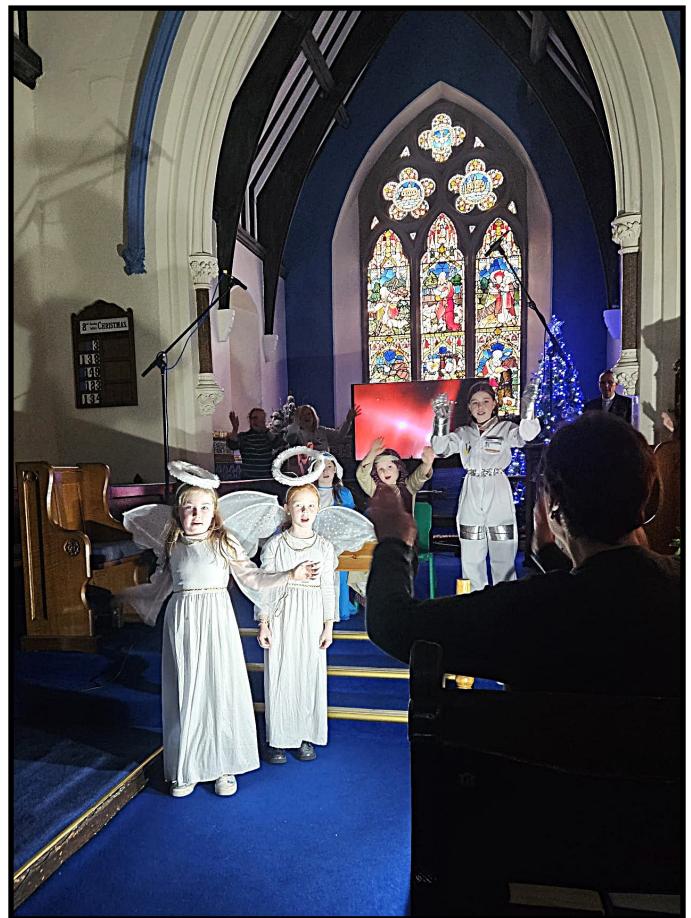


Scan the QR code for information sheet and consent form

# **NATIVITY—FAMILY SERVICE WITH KIDZ KLUB & STAY GROUP**

**(Sunday 14th December 2025)**









## IN MEMORIAMS

**In memory of Billy Lindsay**

£100.00 from Ivor Hayden

**In memory of Bertie Long**

£20.00 from Rev Nigel Cairns

**In memory of George & Margaret Dickson**

£100.00 from Wilma & Charlie Burnside

**In memory of Dickie Montgomery**

£40.00 from George, Ann & Michelle Patterson

**In memory of Ivan Bell**

£40.00 from George, Ann & Michelle Patterson

**In memory of my parents Victor & Edna Stewart**

£100.00 from Ian & Kathleen Stewart

**In memory of a dear father & mother - Samuel & Marjorie Nicholl**

£50.00 from Bertie & Annette Nicholl

**In memory of parents Frederick & Mary Davin and my sister Claire**

£50.00 from Yvette & family

**In memory of the Sheppard & Miller families**

£1000.00 from Norman Miller

**In memory of the Sheppard & Miller families**

£500.00 from Rhoda Miller

## IN MEMORIAMS

**In loving memory of my brother-in-law Dickie Montgomery**

£200.00 from Kathleen Dunlop

**In loving memory of my husband Dickie Montgomery**

£1000.00 from Elizabeth Montgomery

**In loving memory of Robert Ernest McCarter on his 35th Anniversary**

£100.00 from Margaret & Lorna McCarter

**In memory of Thomas Finlay**

£20.00 from Rev Nigel Cairns

## DEATH

**Thomas Finlay (1949-2026)**

Fell asleep on 22nd January 2026

Service of thanksgiving for the life of

Thomas Finlay

on

Monday 26th January 2026



A private cremation will take place at a later time.

## DONATIONS

£5.00 from Anonymous (Building Fund)  
£10.00 from Anonymous (Building Fund)  
£20.00 from Irish Dancing Committee (Room Rent)  
£56.00 from Heritage Talk (22nd January)  
£20.00 from Adrienne Simpkin (Church Magazine)  
£5.00 from Anonymous (for Holy Communion)  
£50.00 from Anonymous (for Holy Communion)  
£20.00 from Arthur Carland (for Holy Communion)

## FLOWER LIST

1st February - The Orr Family  
8th February - Maureen Neely  
15th - Florence Austin  
22nd - Ann Patterson

If you would like to contribute flowers please contact Elizabeth Montgomery on (02871)301432.

**In loving memory of a much loved husband  
McCarter—Robert Ernest (Ernie) - Died 24th February 1991  
(35th Anniversary)**

Although you sleep in Heaven now  
 You're not that far away  
 My heart is full of memories  
 And you're with me every day.  
 You lived your life with meaning  
 And with a smile upon your face  
 A world that was full of happiness  
 Is now an empty place.  
 People say that only time  
 Will heal a broken heart  
 But just like me and you, it has been torn apart.  
 I know you are at peace now  
 And in a place where you are free  
 Meet me at the pearly gates  
 when heaven calls for me.

**Sorely missed and loved so much by your loving wife Margaret. xoxo**

**In loving memory of a much loved father  
McCarter—Robert Ernest (Ernie) - Died 24th February 1991  
(35th Anniversary)**

It's been the hardest thing to lose you  
 You meant so much to me  
 But you are in my heart my love  
 And that's where you will always be.  
 I know that heaven called you  
 And I wished you could have stayed  
 At least the memories I have of you  
 They will never fade.  
 I did not want to lose you  
 But you did not go alone  
 Because a part of me went with you  
 When heaven called you home.  
 So just remember one thing  
 We are not apart  
 You're with me in my memories  
 And in my broken heart.

**Sorely loved and missed forever by your loving daughter Lorna. xoxo**

## LEAH @17

This month's **Leah lunch is on Tuesday 3rd February with Holy Communion in the church at 11.30am followed by lunch at 12.15pm**. It's our **17th birthday** as well so there'll be a bit of a celebration—maybe even a gulder of Happy Birthday!!

Back in 2009, I'm certain that none of us ever thought we would still be going in 2026. A big "thank you" to all the Leah team for their dedication and support for the lunch project as we enter **our 18th year**. As usual please let us know if you will be attending so that we can cater accordingly.

## CHURCH CAFE

February's Cafe will be held as usual on the **last Saturday (28th) of the month** from 10:00am. Please do try and pay us a visit and enjoy our home cooking and baking and have a bit of a "Chat 'n Chew". You won't be disappointed!! PS. We self fund the cafe so every penny you spend goes straight to church funds and helps boost our monthly contribution to Dublin.

We're pleased to once again, welcome **Altnagelvin Renal Support Unit** for their bi-annual **Remembrance Service on Sunday 22nd February at 3pm** and look forward to providing catering afterwards. This will be the third time we've been asked - definitely doing it right then!!

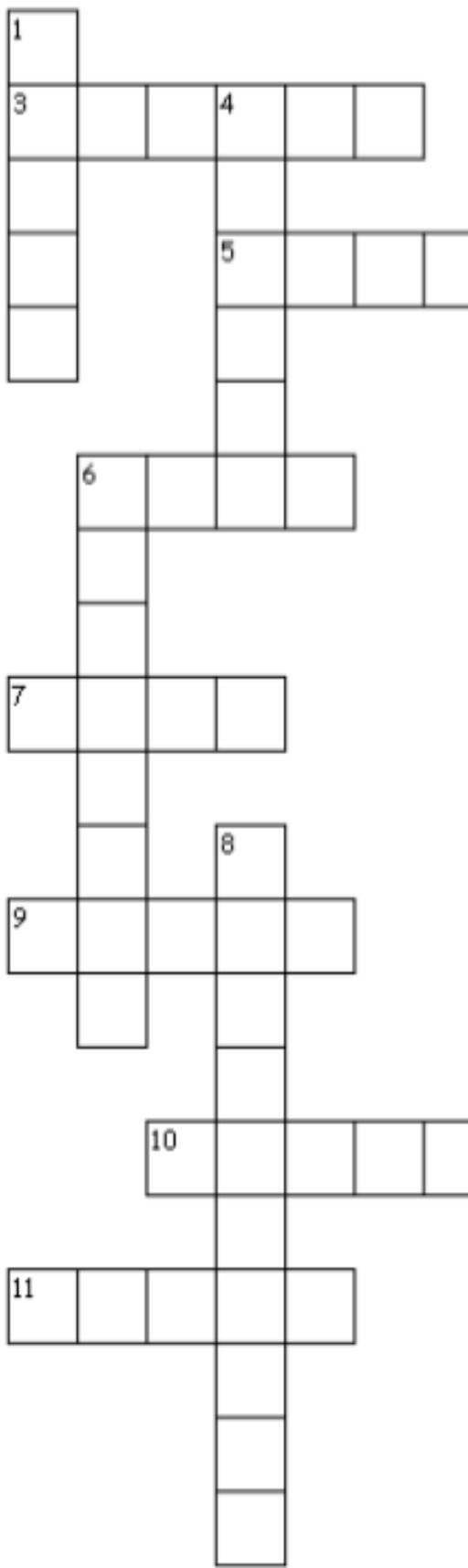
## LUMINARE PRESENTS

We had a bit of a concert break in January after a fairly hectic December but we're back in full performance mode this month. On **Saturday 7th February** we welcome acclaimed singer/songwriter **John Bramwell (I am Kloot)** supported by **David Geraghty (Bellx1)**.

On **Friday 13th February** **John Smith** will be performing his Sunday Times acclaimed album '**Gatherings**'. Check out [www.musiccapital.org](http://www.musiccapital.org) or scan the code below for more information and more concerts.



# PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



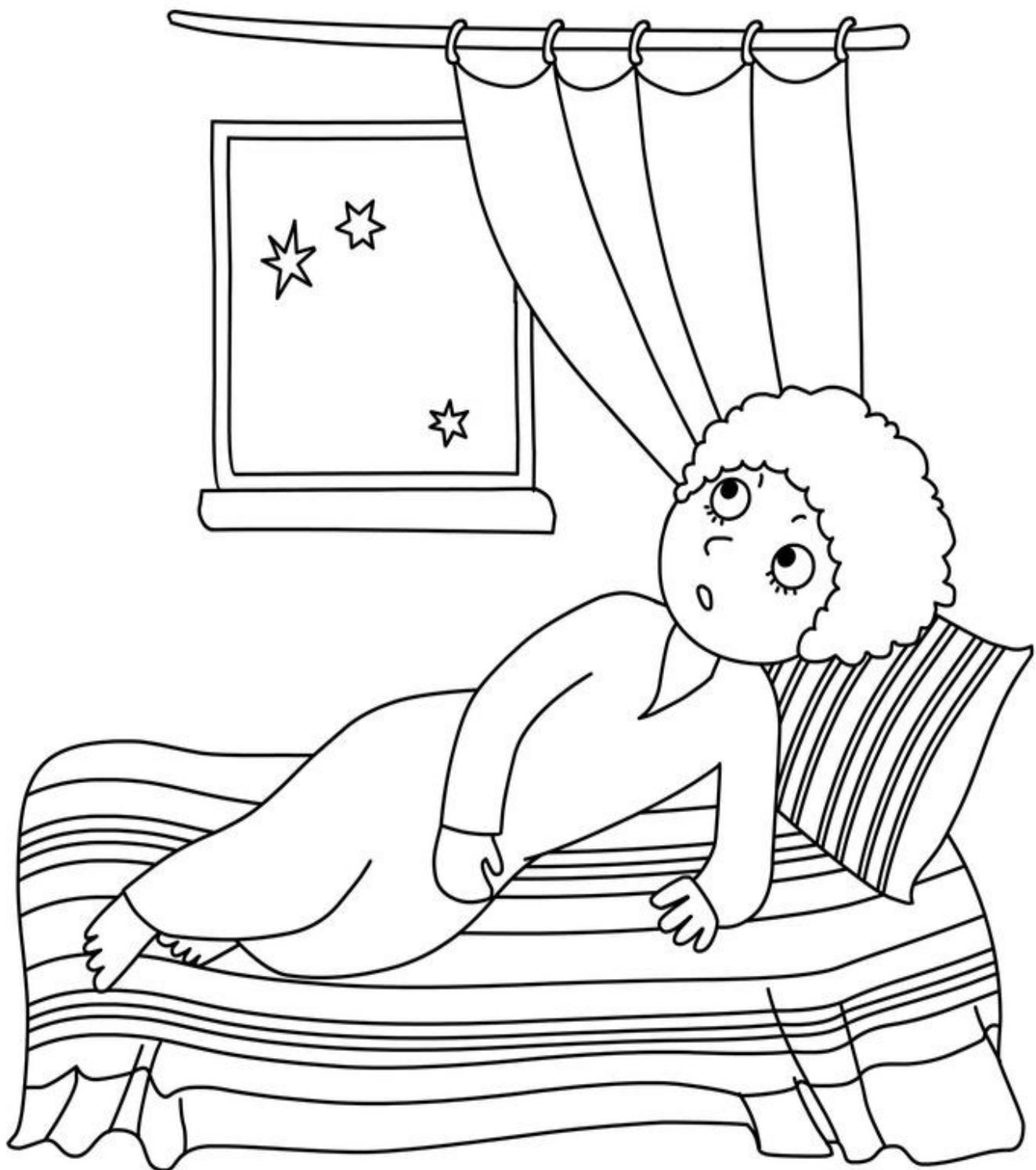
## Across

3. Went to Heaven in chariots of fire.
5. Abraham's wife.
6. Jesus' closest friends: Peter, James, and \_\_\_\_\_
7. Was blinded by a light for three days.
9. Tricked his father with goat hair.
10. The promised son of Abraham.
11. Killed a giant with a stone.

## Down

1. Walked on water with Jesus.
2. Married Boaz.
4. His brothers put him in a well.
6. King Saul's son.
8. Third person in the Trinity.

Yes Lord, I am listening.  
1 Samuel 3:10





# Bible Riddles

## Who am I?

MATCH THE BIBLE EVENT WITH THE PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH IT

1. I LIVED FOR 900 YEARS	A. LAND OF NOD
2. I ATE LOCUST IN THE DESERT	B. METHUSELAH
3. REUBEN IS MY FIRST CHILD	C. THREE WISEMEN
4. I WAS THE ONLY WOMAN JUDGE	D. JOHN THE BAPTIST
5. MY BROTHER STOLE MY BIRTHRIGHT	E. DEBORAH
6. I SOLVED "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN"	F. LOT
7. I AM THE FATHER OF FAITH	G. JOSEPH
8. WE BROUGHT BABY JESUS GIFTS	H. JACOB
9. I KILLED A LION WITH BARE HANDS	I. ESAU
10. I'M FAMOUS FOR THE BURNING BUSH	J. HOSEA
11. MY WIFE TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT	K. DANIEL
12. I SAID JESUS WILL BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM	L. MOSES
13. I AM THE LAND EAST OF EDEN	M. SAMSON
14. I WAS SOLD INTO SLAVERY	N. ABRAHAM
15. I AM THE LAST KING OF ISRAEL	O. MICAH

## **RECTOR**

Rev'd Nigel Cairns  
25 Dunnwood Park, Londonderry BT47 2NN  
email : weechurch@btinternet.com

## **RECTOR'S CHURCH WARDEN**

Mrs. Maureen Neely

## **PEOPLE'S CHURCH WARDEN**

Mrs. Sheira Peacocke

## **PARISH READERS**

Mrs. Deirdre Amor MBE  
Mrs. Alison Cairns  
Mrs. Maureen Neely  
Ms. Sandra McConnell  
Ms. Megan Cairns  
Mr. Drew White  
Mr. Robert Lynch  
Mr. Alan Neely

## **CHURCH FINANCES**

Hon. Treasurer - Mr. Drew White  
Hon. Secretary/ Donations Secretary - Mrs. Deirdre Amor MBE

## **Church Organist**

Miss Lauren Duncan

## **Safeguarding Trust Panel**

Rev'd Nigel Cairns  
Mr. Marshall Kilgore MBE  
Mrs. Irene White

## **Magazine Editor**

Mr. Alan Neely