

NEWSLINK



St John's Parish Moira

April & May 2026

Our Parish's Mission Statement is:

Growing closer to God in love and obedience

Growing closer together in caring & sharing

Growing closer to others in friendship & witness

www.moiraparish.org.uk



St John's is registered with the Charities Commission for Northern Ireland NIC 101047

Rector's Letter

Dear friends

At the time of writing Easter is just about 3 weeks away... Holy Week straddles 2 months and so we begin the praise and elation of Palm Sunday in March and celebrate the glorious resurrection in April.

But hold on.... I've just missed out Good Friday in the transition from March to April.... In reality that's what some people can do, or even choose to do. We love the cries of hosanna on Palm Sunday as Jesus enters triumphantly into Jerusalem with the crowd in awe of Him; but the cries of 'crucify' and the images of Jesus suffering, aren't as appealing so we choose to push Good Friday aside and only rejoin the story again on Easter Sunday with the cry 'He is risen!'

Without Good Friday however there would be no Easter Sunday. We cannot gloss over the fact that Jesus endured such suffering and pain in our place on the cross on Good Friday so that we can know a personal, loving relationship with Him. The empty tomb always stands in the shadow of the cross.

As we turn the calendar from March to April, we find that April Fools' Day sits right in the middle of Holy Week. How foolish would we be to go through another Easter missing the very reason for this time of year. Easter is not about eggs, lambs, daffodils, bonnets, bunnies and baskets - it's about the Lamb of God dying and rising so we can know life in all its fullness with Him. As John the Baptist declared when he saw Jesus 'behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'

As we also turn the calendar from April to May we see that right in the middle of the month comes Ascension Day- again a day that could so easily be missed. It falls 40 days after Easter and marks the return of Jesus to the Father where, as Hebrews tells us, He is seated - His work completed and He prays for us. It may just give you comfort today to know that Jesus is praying for you. The significance of Ascension Day should not be underestimated - because Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit came and the church was formed.

I wonder what days can you look back in your life and say that you didn't realise their significance at the time but you do now? We can all 'miss' days but as we journey through life we need to be thankful for each day we have been given.

Thank God for Good Friday, Easter Day, Ascension Thursday and Pentecost.

These days made the days that we enjoy now possible. Let's therefore be those who make every day count as we seek Jesus, serve Him and introduce others to Him.

God bless

Joanne

Holy Week & Easter - The Traitors who survived!

Palm Sunday

Services as usual in the morning

Moirs Together Choir with Bishop Ken Clarke // 6.30pm

This is the 10th anniversary year of the formation of the choir. Bishop Ken Clarke was the speaker that weekend and we're delighted he's coming back to preach at this service. Other churches will be joining us that evening too. Let's make a special effort to be present and invite others.

Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April // 10am

All age service (with activities for the kids) lasting half an hour
followed by tea/ coffee/ juice and scones
(Parish Centre)

Monday 30th March // 8pm

Praise and Prayer
(in LOGIC)

Tuesday 31st March // 7pm

Prayer walk
(meet at Parish Centre)

Wednesday 1st April // 8pm

Testimony Time
(Parish Church)

Thursday 2nd April // 8pm

Holy Communion
(Parish Church)

Good Friday

All age service in the Parish Centre // 10am
(followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns)

Good Friday Service // 8pm

(Parish Church)

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion in the Church // 9am

All Age Service in the Parish Centre // 10am

Holy Communion in Parish Church // 11.30am

Easter Praise in the Parish Church // 6.30pm

Happy **EASTER**

From all at St John's
'The Code is Cracked!'

Easter Day Services

Sunday 5th April

9am | Holy Communion (*Parish Church*)

10am | Easter Worship (*Parish Centre*)

All age service followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns

11.30am | Holy Communion (*Parish Church*)

6.30pm | Easter Praise (*Parish Church*)

St John's Parish, 51 Main Street Moira
moiraparish.org.uk // hello@moiraparish.org.uk // 02892 617136



Parish Weekend - Kilbroney 2026

Join us for a joyful weekend of Biblical encouragement for the *whole* church family!

From the youngest to the oldest, there'll be something for everyone to enjoy. We'll also have the chance to take part in outdoor activities—perfect for making memories together (weather permitting!).

When: 15th–17th May 2025

Cost:

- Preschoolers & babies – **Free!**
- Primary school-aged children – **£80**
- Adults & young people (post-primary age) – **£90**

To register, please contact **Kelly** in the Church Office:

02892 617136 // Kelly@moiraparish.org.uk

A non-refundable deposit will be taken.

We'd love you to come along and be part of this special weekend together!

We don't want anyone to miss out on this opportunity due to financial pressure so please do speak to Kelly or Joanne if this is an issue for you.

Easter Vestry

Tuesday 14th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre

Anniversary Books

We have just 70 of these books left now - if you'd like one, please contact Joanne or Kelly. Once they're gone, they're gone.

Winter Warmers

We have just finished Winter Warmers for this season. A huge thank you to all the ladies and gents who have served us delicious food all winter. Thank you too to everyone who came along - we loved having you.

Parish Records

In order to keep our Parish Records up-to-date and compliant with data protection laws, could you please let us know if you move to a new address, change phone number or email address. Please contact Kelly@moiraparish.org.uk with the updated information. Many thanks.

Sunday School

Sundays (term time) // 10am

The Parish Centre

At Sunday School, kids will have the opportunity to learn more about God, their faith and what it means to be a Christian. This is done through lessons, activities, games and much more.

Blast (seniors) runs alongside Sunday school for everyone in Year 8- Year 10 in the Willow room.

If you would like more information on our Sunday school, please contact Jack: Jack@moiraparish.org.uk.

KidsQuest

Wednesday 29th April & 27th May // 6.30pm - 7.45pm

The Parish

Kids Quest is open to all primary school age kids.

Come along for craft, games, stories and much more.



Revelation

Sundays // 6.45pm - 8.30pm

The Parish Centre

For all those in Yr 8 - Yr14. We would love to see you there!



JellyTots

Mondays // 10am - 11.30am

The Parish Centre

An opportunity for mums, dads, grannies, grandads, carers to meet up and share a cuppa whilst their little ones (babies - nursery school age) play together and enjoy toast and juice and craft.

Please note that Jelly Tots will break for Easter after the session on Monday, 23rd March, and will resume on Monday, 13th April.



Wednesday's Word

Wednesdays // 1pm - 1.30pm

The Parish Church

If you've never been before, why not join us for a short Bible talk each Wednesday at 1pm - 1.30pm in the Bateman Suite. Feel free to bring your own lunch with you. All welcome.

Prayer Breakfast

Saturdays 11th April & 9th May // 8am - 9am

The Rectory

Why not pop in for our time of prayer as we pray for the life and witness of the parish, issues in our country and further afield. You don't have to pray out loud but if you want to, you can. A bite of breakfast finishes off our time together. Come along and be blessed.

Men Together

Tuesdays 14th April & 12th May // 7.45pm

The Bateman Suite

Men Together is a monthly group for men of all ages to learn together from the Bible, pray and encourage one another in Christian living. No evening of Men Together would be complete without a cuppa and chat. If you've never been before, why not give it a go?

Connected

None in April owing to Easter back on 11th May // 7.30pm - 8.15pm

The Bateman Suite

Join us in the Bateman Suite for a time of worship and prayer. All Welcome.

REVIVE

Sundays 26 April & 24th May // 7.30pm

The Parish Centre

A time of informal worship and talk. Lasts no longer than an hour. Come along and be blessed! All welcome!

Grief Support

Mondays // 7.30pm

The Parish Centre

Living with grief is not easy. It's often a long and painful process. We want to help you on your journey. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, we encourage you to come to Grief Support, where you will meet others who are in a similar situation. There is a short talk followed by a cuppa and a confidential chat with people who are going through similar experiences. You'd be very welcome. For more information please contact Daphne on 07796 675078.

Dates for your diary

21 June // Fun Day

20th - 24th July // Summer Holiday Bible Club

Moira FC

Matthew 9, 37: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

Job Vacancy - Immediate start*

Moira FC, the youth football club that runs under the banner of LOGIC and St John's, currently has vacancies in all age groups from 2010 to 2018. We are forever trying to evolve and hope to soon commence 2019 and 2020 groups. These potential new groups are particularly in need.

If you would like to join us on our continuing journey please get in touch.

Location: Often cold and occasionally wet pitch sides and training venues.

Hours: Will definitely involve evenings and weekends - including regular early starts.

Starting salary: £0.00 (percentage increase negotiable at annual review)

Duties to include: Crowd control, lace tying, logistic management, admin skills.

Essential criteria: Enthusiasm.

Desirable criteria: Child psychology experience and possible conflict management skills

*Subject to Access NI and Safeguarding

Interested candidates please email: moiraafc@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you!!

Alison and Elaine would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to, or supported from afar, the Pre-Loved Clothing event in March. Thank you also to all those who helped in any way, we couldn't have done it without you!

A wonderful evening was had catching up with friends, getting a bargain or two and enjoying a lovely supper - all for our link Diocese of Ibbra South Sudan through Fields of Life and CMS Ireland. Over £3,300 was raised!

LOGIC

LOGIC have been busy with their weekly drop in and Youth Alpha. They are currently planning their Easter programme and getting ready for next term so watch this space for an update in June!

Indoor Car Boot Sale & Coffee Morning

There is no car boot sale in April owing to Holy Week

Saturday 2nd May // 9.00am - 12pm

St John's Parish Centre

Cost £5 car; £10 van; £6 indoor table

Contact the Parish Office for further details hello@moiraparish.org.uk or David Johnston on 07717 732489.

If you don't have stuff to sell, why not come along and browse the stalls and have a cuppa with some fresh scones or sweet treats.

Mindful Mandate



Wednesdays 15th April and 6th & 20th May // 7pm

A men's group that meets for a cuppa and some 'hand's on' work. **Contact David Kerr for more info: 07510223932**

Life Groups

Life Groups and Bible Study are an opportunity to meet with others and discuss the Bible in an informal setting. You don't have to have all the answers about faith, in fact small groups and Bible Study provide an opportunity to learn together from each other. There is also the opportunity to pray together and have a cuppa. Life groups meet at various times and days of the week.

Bible Study

Thursdays // 8pm

The Parish Centre

Each Thursday evening at 8pm - A great opportunity to study God's word together. Speak to Barry Harrison or Joanne for more info.

Teaching Time

Tuesdays 21st April & 12th May // 7.30pm

Parish Centre

If you've not been before, why not come along? There is a half hour talk on a character/ chapter of the Bible. All welcome!

Please note April's change in date.

Prayer Pods

Tuesdays at 5.45am via zoom (contact Laure Martin for login details)

Sunday morning at 9.20am in Parish Centre

If you'd like to start a zoom Prayer Pod, please let Joanne know. It would be great to see at least one meeting every day of the week: joanne@moiraparish.org.uk

REIGNITE

Saturdays 11th & 25th April and 9th & 23rd May // 6.30am
The Parish Centre

Reignite continues to meet on Saturday once a fortnight in the Parish Centre. We will be continuing our "Strengthening Your Grip" Series in April and May. Topics will include: Prayer, Leisure, Missions and Godliness.

The meetings begin with Tea or Coffee and Toast or Pancakes and some informal chat. We then listen to a twenty-minute audio on the subject of "Strengthening Your Grip on" on a series of different topics. An informal discussion on the subject follows winding up shortly after 8.00am. Men can come and go as they please to attend to the usual Saturday chores.

Men of all ages from 18+ are welcome. If you have not already been along, why not come and give it a try.

Moira Friendship Group

Moira Friendship group is an initiative of St John's to promote fellowship and friendship for those who are over 50.



Everyone is welcome to come along. Contact Alison Bell for more information: 02892 612119.

Admission to Hospital

If you are admitted to hospital, please let Joanne know. Please don't rely on the hospital chaplain informing her. Many thanks.

Parish Registers

Burials

23 February

Anna Simpson

13 March

Isobel Russell

Baptism

29 March

Daniel Roy Ramsey

Financial Update - 2026 Year to date:

Free Will Offering donations (excluding standing orders) £15,878.38

Building Fund donations (excluding standing orders): £1887.50

Thank you to everyone who supports us financially. We could not do what we do without your generosity.

If you don't have envelopes can we encourage you to set up a Standing Order or write a cheque. We really appreciate your kind giving at this time.

Please contact Kelly at the Parish Office Kelly@moiraparish.org.uk // 028 9261 7136 if you would like **weekly envelopes** or **gift aid declaration forms**.

How can I set up a Standing Order?

The best way to give free will offerings is by regular standing order.

If you wish to make a payment to St John's through your online banking please use the details below:

Free Will Offering: Account Name: Moira Parish Church

Account No: 18144007 Sort Code: 98-10-75

Building Fund:

Account Name: Moira Parish Church BLD

Account No: 18144197 Sort Code: 98-10-75

(If you have an envelope number then please use this as your reference so we allocate the payment correctly.)

Contact Us

Rector: Rev Joanne Megarrell // joanne@moiraparish.org.uk

Children's & Youth Development Officer :

Jack Wilson // jack@moiraparish.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Kelly Johnston // kelly@moiraparish.org.uk

LOGIC Development Officer: Matt Peach // matt@logiccafe.org

LOGIC Administrator: Tracey McKinley // tracey@logiccafe.org

LOGIC Intern: Ryan Heaney // ryan@logiccafe.org

St John's Parish, Main Street, Moira, BT67 0LQ

02892 617136 // hello@moiraparishorg.uk // moiraparish.org.uk

