



November 2026
Glenavy Parish News

Glenavy PARISH NEWS (November 2026)

Welcome to the November edition of Parish News!

As we move through the month of November, there is much going on across Glenavy Parish. Whether it's worship, fellowship, or serving our community, there is a place for everyone to take part. This is also a season to prepare our hearts as we look towards the coming of Advent and Christmas. We hope this edition of the Parish News helps you stay connected, and we are thankful for all who give so generously of their time, energy and gifts in so many ways.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A big thank you to all those who have already collected items for Operation Christmas Child! If you are packing a shoebox or contributing items, **please ensure all donations are at the church by Sunday 8 November**. Each box is an opportunity to share God's love in a practical way with a child in need this Christmas.

Remember, you don't have to fill an entire box—individual donations are also very welcome. Boxes will be finally packed on Weds 11th Nov from 7.15pm in St Aidan's Church Hall

The website (www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox#gift-suggestions) sets out instructions for packing an Operation Christmas Child shoebox across three age categories: **2–4, 5–9, and 10–14**. The aim is to build a well-rounded box of practical and fun items around one central gift.

What to pack

Each box should feature a main "wow" item to catch the child's eye right away—such as a cuddly toy, a doll, a toy truck, or for older children, a deflated football with a pump or a solar-powered torch.

Alongside that main gift, you can pack:

School supplies like notebooks, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, drawing pads, and solid paint sets. Picture books are best since many children won't speak or read English.

Hygiene items such as a toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, flannel, sponge, or chapstick. Reusable sanitary pads can be included for older girls and are best placed at the bottom of the box.

Accessories and small clothing like socks, hats, gloves, T-shirts, sunglasses, small bags, simple card games, puzzles, or small instruments like a kazoo or recorder.

A personal Christmas card, note, or family photo. Homemade knitted or sewn items are welcome as long as they are made from new materials and use proper toy stuffing.

What to leave out

No toothpaste, sweets, chocolate, or food of any kind. Customs regulations in destination countries now require ingredient lists and expiry details that cannot be managed logistically.

No soap, liquids, or lotions. This excludes liquid glue, liquid paint, lip gloss, and glow sticks. Dry glue sticks, watercolour palettes, chapstick, and wet wipes are fine.

No used or damaged items. Everything packed should be new.

No war toys, weapons, sharp objects, seeds, medicines, aerosols, or breakables.

No religious or political literature inside the box. Keeping the box contents neutral allows it to clear customs easily across different countries, while local church partners handle sharing the gospel story in ways suited to their local context.

If you are sending loose batteries or small tools for older children, wrap any sharp edges securely and place tape over both ends of the batteries for safety.

Children's Sunday Club

Sunday Club continues across Glenavy, Crumlin and Tunny, with weekly Bible stories, activities, and teaching designed to root children

in God's Word. It's wonderful to see children and families participating, and we pray that this time together helps them grow in faith and understand the importance of being part of the church family. All children of Primary School age are welcome.

Harvest Thank-Offerings

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously at Harvest. Donations have been sent to the Lisburn Food Bank. 'Fields of Life' envelopes have been collected and will be forwarded.

ALL IN Monthly Joint Service

Our next **ALL IN** service is Sunday **8 November** at 11.30am in **St Aidan's, Glenavy**. Come early for refreshments from 11.00am—it's a great chance to catch up with others before worship. Please note there will be no morning services in **St John's, Crumlin** or **St Andrew's, Tunny** that day.

LIFTED Evening Worship

Join us for **LIFTED**, our informal and reflective evening service, on **Sunday 22 November, 6.30pm** at **St John's, Crumlin**. With contemporary worship and space for reflection and prayer, **LIFTED** is for anyone needing time to re-centre on God or wanting a quieter, more intimate worship setting. You're always welcome.

Glenavy Parish Christmas Choir

Our Christmas Choir rehearsals are underway as we prepare for the parish's Christmas services. Rehearsals are weekly on Tuesday evenings (from Nov 3rd) at 7.30pm in St Aidan's Church. It's not too late to join! Whether you're a confident singer or just enthusiastic, you'll be warmly welcomed.

Pop-Up Shop

Come along to our **Pop-Up Shop on Saturday 28 November** in **St John's Hall, Crumlin**, starting at 10am. This is a great opportunity to pick up Christmas gifts, crafts, baked goods, and more as we approach Christmas. This pop-up shop will raise funds for 'Pips Suicide prevention'. Pre-loved items gratefully received on Friday 27th from 10am. We are always looking for **helpers who are needed**

on Friday 27 November (10am-4pm as well as Saturday); please consider lending a hand. See Lynn Cassidy for further information.

Prayer Gatherings

Prayer is central to our life as a parish, and we encourage everyone to join us at one of the following:

- Mondays at 9.30am in St Aidan's Church Hall
- Wednesdays at 6.30pm in St Aidan's Church Hall

Come whenever you can. Together, let's be faithful in bringing our parish, local community, and the wider world before God in prayer.

Parish Walking Group

Our relaxed, fortnightly walks are a wonderful way to enjoy fresh air and some good company! Meet at **10am on Wednesday 4 November and Wednesday 18 November** in **St Aidan's Car Park**. Everyone is welcome, so feel free to invite a friend along.

Coffee and Craic

This monthly gathering for seniors meets on **Tuesday 10 November at 10am in St Aidan's Church Hall**. There's always a warm welcome and a morning of tea, coffee, good conversation, and fellowship. If you've never been before, why not come along this month? We'd love to see you.

Glenavy Men's Group

The Men's Group invites you to a relaxed and informal **How to make a Banjo Evening** on **Monday, 16 November, 7.30pm**, in St Aidan's Church Hall. We will be welcoming Mr Paul Conlon, a local instrument maker and musician.

Glenavy Ladies' Night

Prepare for the season of Advent with a creative and inspiring evening of Wreath making. Join us on **Thursday 26 November, 7.30pm** in St Aidan's Church Hall. Bring your own greenery. Guidance will be given as we create beautiful wreaths to use in our homes during the weeks of Advent. It's a wonderful way to focus our

hearts on the coming of Christ as we make something meaningful to take home. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

Glenavy Live Here, Love Here

The grounds of St. Aidan's Church are a beautiful and peaceful setting for a relaxing walk. Are you interested in continuing to provide an attractive and welcoming setting for our community to enjoy? We meet every Monday afternoon from 2- 4pm to participate in outdoor projects such as weeding, sweeping and litter picking. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments are provided. For more information please contact: Cathy 07525336173

CAP (Christians against Poverty)

Could you help bring hope? We're hosting an information meeting **on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm (St Aidan's Hall)** about how you can get involved with the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP). CAP is transforming lives across the UK by helping people break free from debt, poverty, and its burdens—always with Christ's love at the heart. Could you be part of this vital mission? Come along to hear more about what's involved and how you might be able to help. Whether you're considering volunteering or simply curious to learn more, we'd love to see you there!

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is vital for the life of our parish. This area is overseen by the Parish Panel (Janet Bell, Trevor Wilson, and Rev Stephen). If you have any concerns, do contact one of the panel members or refer to the safeguarding guidelines displayed on our church noticeboards.

Youth & Children's Ministry Training

There will be a diocesan training day on **Saturday 21 November** at St Patrick's Ballymena for all involved in youth and children's ministry. It promises to be useful and encouraging. If you volunteer in this area—or are considering getting involved—this is for you. For further details, please contact Rev Stephen.

Parish Events – October 2026

Date and Time	Event or Service	Venue
Sun 1 Nov, 10.00am	Crumlin: Holy Communion	St John's, Crumlin
Sun 1 Nov, 10.00am	Tunny: Morning Worship	St Andrew's, Tunny
Sun 1 Nov, 11.30am	Glenavy: Morning Worship	St Aidan's, Glenavy
Mon 2 Nov, 9.00am	Glenavy Tots Group	St Aidans Church Hall
Mon 2 Nov, 9.30am	Prayertime Monday morning	St Aidan's Church Hall
Mon 2 Nov, 2pm-4pm	Glenavy Live Here Love Here	St Aidan's Church Grounds
Tue 3 Nov, 7.30pm	Christmas Choir Practice	St Aidan's Church
Wed 4 Nov, 10.00am	Walking Group meet 10am	St Aidan's Church Car Park
Wed 4 Nov, 6.30pm	Prayertime Wednesday evening	St Aidan's Church Hall
Sun 8 Nov, 11.30am	Glenavy: ALL IN (No services in St John's or St Andrew's)	St Aidan's, Glenavy
Mon 9 Nov, 9.00am	Glenavy Tots Group	St Aidans Church Hall
Mon 9 Nov, 9.30am	Prayertime Monday morning	St Aidan' Church Hall
Mon 9 Nov, 2pm-4pm	Glenavy Live Here Love Here	St Aidan's Church Grounds
Tue 10 Nov, 10.00am	Coffee and Craic	St Aidan's Church hall
Tue 10 Nov, 7.30pm	Christmas Choir Practice	St Aidan's Church
Tue 10 Nov, 7.30pm	Select Vestry meeting	St Aidan's Church Hall
Wed 11 Nov, 6.30pm	Prayertime Wednesday evening	St Aidan's Church Hall
Sun 15 Nov, 10.00am	Crumlin: Morning Worship	St John's, Crumlin
Sun 15 Nov, 10.00am	Tunny: Holy Communion	St Andrew's, Tunny
Sun 15 Nov, 11.30am	Glenavy: Holy Communion	St Aidan's, Glenavy
Mon 16 Nov, 9.00am	Glenavy Tots Group	St Aidan's Church Hall
Mon 16 Nov, 9.30am	Prayertime Monday morning	St Aidan' Church Hall
Mon 16 Nov, 2pm-4pm	Glenavy Live Here Love Here	St Aidan's Church Grounds
Mon 16 Nov, 7.30pm	Glenavy Mens Group	St Aidan's Church Hall
Tue 17 Nov, 7.30pm	Christmas Choir Practice	St Aidan's Church
Wed 18 Nov, 10.00am	Walking Group meet 10am	St Aidan's Church Car Park

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm	CAP (Christians Against Poverty)	St Aidan's Church Hall
Wed 18 Nov, 6.30pm	Prayertime Wednesday evening	St Aidan's Church Hall
Sat 21 Nov, 10.00am	Launch Youth and Children's Ministry Training	St Patrick's Ballymena
Sun 22 Nov, 10.00am	Crumlin: Morning Worship	St John's, Crumlin
Sun 22 Nov, 10.00am	Tunny: Morning Worship	St Andrew's, Tunny
Sun 22 Nov, 11.30am	Glenavy: Morning Worship	St Aidan's, Glenavy
Sun 22 Nov, 6.30pm	LIFTED service	St John's Crumlin
Mon 23 Nov, 9.00am	Glenavy Tots Group	St Aidans Church Hall
Mon 23 Nov, 9.30am	Prayertime Monday morning	St Aidan's Church Hall
Mon 23 Nov, 2pm-4pm	Glenavy Live Here Love Here	St Aidan's Church Grounds
Tue 24 Nov, 7.30pm	Christmas Choir Practice	St Aidan's Church
Wed 25 Nov, 6.30pm	Prayertime Wednesday evening	St Aidan's Church Hall
Thurs 26 Nov, 7.30pm	Glenavy Ladies' Night	St Aidan's Church Hall
Fri 27 Nov, 10.00am-4pm	Pop Up shop Set Up	St John's Hall, Crumlin
Sat 28 Nov, 10.00am	Pop Up Shop	St John's Hall, Crumlin
Sun 29 Nov, 10.00am	Crumlin: Morning Worship	St John's, Crumlin
Sun 29 Nov, 10.00am	Tunny: Morning Worship	St Andrew's, Tunny
Sun 29 Nov, 11.30am	Glenavy: Morning Worship	St Aidan's, Glenavy
Mon 30 Nov, 9.00am	Glenavy Tots Group	St Aidans Church Hall
Mon 30 Nov, 9.30am	Prayertime Monday morning	St Aidan' Church Hall
Mon 30 Nov, 2pm-4pm	Glenavy Live Here Love Here	St Aidan's Church Grounds